

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of December 19, 1865, information in regard to plans to induce the immigration of dissatisfied citizens of the United States into Mexico, and especially in regard to the plans of Dr. William M. Gwin and M. F. Maury.

JANUARY 10, 1866.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 19th ultimo, requesting information in regard to any plans to induce the immigration of dissatisfied citizens of the United States into Mexico ; their organization there with the view to create disturbances in the United States ; and especially in regard to the plans of Dr. William M. Gwin and M. F. Maury, and to the action taken by the government of the United States to prevent the success of such schemes, I transmit a report from the Acting Secretary of State, and the papers by which it was accompanied.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, January 5, 1866.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, January 4, 1866.

The Acting Secretary of State, to whom has been referred the resolution of the Senate of the 19th ultimo, requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate any information in possession of the State Department, or any other department of the government, in regard to any plans to induce into the so-called Mexican empire all dissatisfied citizens of the United States with a view to organize them there to create disturbances in the United States, and especially information in regard to the plans of Dr. William M. Gwin and M. F. Maury, lately citizens of the United States, and in regard to the action taken by the government to prevent the success of such schemes," has the honor to lay before the President the papers mentioned in the subjoined list, called for by the said resolution.

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary of State.

The PRESIDENT.

List of papers.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, July 9, 1864, with two enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, July 27, 1864.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, December 3, 1864, with one enclosure.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, January 7, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, February 6, 1865.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, February 25, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Hunter, April 20, 1865, with two enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, November 2, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, July 4, 1865, with five enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, November 4, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, July 8, 1865, with eight enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, July 18, 1865.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow, July 13, 1865.
 Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward, August 10, 1865, with two enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow, August 24, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, October 5, 1865, with three enclosures.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, December 10, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, October 20, 1865, with four enclosures.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, November 4, 1865, with two enclosures.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, December 12, 1865, with one enclosure.
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, December 21, 1865.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Hunter, December 31, 1865, with two enclosures.
 Mr. Hunter to Mr. Romero, December 31, 1865.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION, Washington, July 9, 1864.

Mr. Romero presents his respects to Mr. Seward, and has the honor to enclose to him an extract taken from the New York Tribune, which contains the address which General Magruder, commander-in-chief of the insurgent army in Texas, made to Don Santiago Vidaurri, who was the governor of the states of New Leon and Coahuila, in the republic of Mexico, on solemnly receiving him at the city of San Antonio on the 21st May last, which address, no less than the answer of Vidaurri, demonstrates the existence of a perfect understanding between the traitors in Mexico and the insurgents in the United States, because both count on the aid of the French government to bring to a close, such as they desire, the enterprises in which they are engaged. This is the address to which Mr. Romero referred at the interview he had with Mr. Seward at the Department of State on the 20th June last past.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

AN INTERESTING PAIR OF REBELS.—VIDAURRI AND MAGRUDER COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER IN PUBLIC SPEECHES.

[From the New Orleans Era.]

The absquatulating ex-governor of the Mexican states of Coahuila and New Leon, Vidaurri, and the rebel commander-in-chief of Texas, General J. Bankhead Magruder, had an interesting meeting at Houston on the 21st May, a full account of which we give below, taken from the columns of the Houston *Telegraph* of the 23d. It was a solemn and impressive

spectacle, the meeting of these two noble and devoted patriots, martyrs in the cause of liberty, who have fought and bled for their country, and made enormous fortunes by stealing cotton from defenceless citizens, selling it to meet the requirements of the public service, and pocketing the proceeds. Here is the way these disinterested, self-sacrificing men talk to each other for the benefit of the credulous and humbugged people:

Governor Vidaurri arrived in this city on Saturday, and was courteously received by General Magruder and his staff and a military escort. On meeting him at the depot of the Central railroad, General Magruder addressed him, in substance, as follows:

GENERAL VIDAURRI: I bid you welcome to this military district, not only as one who has been governor of neighboring and friendly states, those of Coahuila and Nueva Leon, but as an enlightened chief magistrate, who has established friendly relations with the confederacy, and has always appreciated the value of an uninterrupted commercial and amicable intercourse with the State and citizens of Texas.

I bid you welcome as one of those patriots who have wisdom to discern and nerve to execute whatever may be for the best interest of their country. In the wild storms which have swept over your native land, you have exercised control to draw order out of chaos, and to secure the best interests of the people, even in spite of themselves.

For your noble efforts to serve the people of Coahuila and Nueva Leon you are now an exile. For your patriotic exertions to secure for them the blessings of a well-organized, regular, and just government, and to free them from any dependence on the most faithless and barbarous of all people, (those of the United States,) you have offered up yourself as a sacrifice. But the patriot will be rewarded; your sacrifices will be but temporary; and all wise and truly patriotic Mexicans will soon acknowledge the wisdom, as well as the patriotism, of your course, and, welcoming you back with open arms, will invite you to such a participation in the conduct of public affairs as your great ability and high character fairly demand.

Be assured, general, that we shall look with interest upon your future career, as we have done upon the past, and that we wish you health and prosperity as cordially as we bid you welcome.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

To this Governor Vidaurri replied, thanking General Magruder for the unexpected compliment he had paid him. He assured him that he had always felt the greatest sympathy for the Confederate States, as they had battled for their rights and for the poor privilege to be let alone. He was himself now an exile from his country for contending for the same rights that had been usurped by unprincipled men. He hoped soon that the Confederate States might reach the object for which they had so long struggled.

The governor and General Magruder then took carriages, escorted by the general's staff. The *cortege* proceeded to the Fannin House, where it halted, and the distinguished stranger was waited upon by the military and civil authorities, his honor the mayor tendering him a welcome to the city.

It is a well-known fact that not two-thirds of the enormous sums of money derived from the seizure and sale of cotton by General Magruder and his emissaries was ever used for the benefit of the rebel government, but was invested in sterling bills and foreign loans for the benefit of Magruder and the men connected with him in his swindling transactions. This is well known to hundreds of refugees from the State of Texas now in this city. Vidaurri, by levying heavy taxes upon the cotton transported through the territory over which he ruled, and by occasional seizure of a lot belonging to private parties, (against which there was no redress, owing to the lawless state of the country, and to the fact that the owners generally were rebels, and had no government that could or would protect them,) managed to feather his nest quite snugly. It is to be hoped, however, that when he decamped from Monterey, between the setting and rising of the sun, that he was compelled to leave behind all, or nearly all, of his ill-gotten gains.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 27, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your verbal note of the ninth instant, enclosing an extract from the New York Tribune, which contains an account of the reception given to Don Santiago Vidaurri, late governor of

the states of New Leon and Coahuila, (Mexico,) at San Antonio, on the 20th May last, by General Magruder, commanding the insurgent army in Texas.

While thanking you for that attention, I beg to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

SEÑOR MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,

Washington, D. C.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, December 3, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR: In the conversation we had on Thursday, 24th November last, I read to you extracts of a letter which a friend, resident in New York, had written to me in relation to the plans respecting Mexico which it is assured are entertained by many persons in the northern States, in concert with citizens of the south. You were pleased to ask me for a memorandum from this letter, and I offered to send it to you. I have not done so before now, because I expected to receive some advices from Mexico, and wished to see if the reports indicated were in any manner confirmed by the advices which should be received from that country. Those advices have now reached me, and I have the honor to send you the memorandum which you asked for, added to by the last news received.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Translation.]

A friend of Mr. Romero writes to him from New York, under date of 22d November last past, informing him that from conversations he has had with an ex-general of the army of the United States, and an ex-governor and ex-senator of one of the States of the Union, he was convinced that there were serious intrigues on the part of many northern men, disgusted with the result of the late presidential election, in connexion with a considerable number of prominent men at the south, that in case—which is now considered probable—the south should have to yield to the armies of the north, they would go to Mexico and operate in the development of the mines and extension of agriculture, with the purpose, in the first place, of sustaining Maximilian, and for the purpose of occupying themselves afterwards in that country.

The number of persons dissatisfied at the north is large enough, and that of those who are disposed to venture on such an enterprise is altogether greater at the south, in the opinion of the person who communicates this information—being sufficient to give a great re-enforcement to Maximilian. This aid on the part of the south might assume the character of an armed immigration, which could take place before the forces of the United States could shut the door against them by taking the line of the Rio Grande.

The ex-general said, in the conversation referred to, that M. Montholon, French minister to Mexico, was working to this purpose, and that a full brigade would soon set off, as private individuals, from the Atlantic States for Vera Cruz, and others from California for the Pacific coast.

The ex-governor and ex-senator said that the French minister in Mexico had already concluded negotiations in respect of Sonora and Lower California.

These assertions agree entirely with the news received from Mexico by the last steamer from the Havana.

“The Estafette,” which is the organ of French policy in Mexico, has frequently made allusions to the convenience that Maximilian will cultivate the best understanding with the confederate authorities on the frontier, and to favor, in all modes, the immigration of citizens who have risen against this government.

A letter from Mexico, published by the "Courrier des Etats Unis," a French imperialist paper printed in New York, and which it is believed was written by M. Masseras, proprietor of that paper, who actually is in the city of Mexico, paves the way to prevent public opinion from being alarmed on learning that Maximilian thinks of aliening, or has aliened, a portion of the Mexican territory. The said letter appears to restrict itself to the Mexican financial question, and says that the budget of the so-called empire approaches forty millions of dollars, and the portions of Mexican revenue which are in the hands of the French are reckoned at four millions. To cover this deficit, says the letter, there is no other choice but to sell or mortgage the public domain. Various letters from Mexico, received in New York by different persons who are in communication with partisans of Maximilian, aver unanimously that he only exercises a nominal power, but that the real authority rests only in General Bazaine, who acts under instructions which he receives directly from the Emperor of the French, and of which even the Minister Montholon has no knowledge.

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1864.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, January 7, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 3d December last, communicating a memorandum of parts of a letter written to you by a friend in New York, under date of the 22d November, 1864, in reference to the plans of an armed emigration to Mexico, contemplated by many disinterested persons in the northern States acting in concert with disloyal citizens of the United States.

In reply, I beg to express to you my appreciation of the information transmitted to this government, and to assure you that the subject of your communication will receive the serious attention to which it is justly entitled.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, February 6, 1865.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has the honor to address himself to the honorable William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, for the purpose of protesting in the most explicit and formal manner against the cession which the ex-Archduke of Austria, Ferdinand Maximilian, has made, or is about to make, to the French government of various states of the Mexican republic.

The undersigned permits himself to remind the honorable William H. Seward that at the interview which he had with him on the 19th January last past, he read to him a letter written at the city of Mexico on the 28th December previous, the latest date from that city received up to this date in this country, in which a person well-informed and entirely trustworthy communicated the news that French agents in that city had proposed to the deluded Mexicans, who now encircle the usurper that the Emperor of the French has sent to Mexico a settlement, in virtue of which there is to be ceded to France the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Coahuila, parts of those of San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, Durango, and Chihuahua, almost the whole of Sonora, and the peninsula of

Lower California, the dividing line to be formed by the river Yaqui, on the Pacific, and Panuco, on the Gulf, to their sources, and a straight line drawn from one point to the other; that to make the cession of so considerable a part of the Mexican territory acceptable, assurance was made that France would establish in the ceded territory a military colony, which would be under its immediate protection, and which would place the rest of the country under shelter from filibustering attacks from the United States, which would produce the liquidation of the supposed debt which Mexico has with France, and which would facilitate the acquisition of three hundred millions to the treasury of the usurper. It is added, also, to make so considerable a loss less sensibly felt, that the states referred to have only belonged in name to Mexico, because they have been ruled by authorities which have not respected the orders of the central government of Mexico, and which were doomed to self-destruction, either because they might fall into the power of the French or of the United States, and that in such alternative there cannot be a moment's doubt of the preferable extreme. In the same letter assurance was given that such settlement had not been yet submitted to the usurper, and it was given out as understood that he would not fail to hesitate and even manifest opposition to it before his acceptance.

This circumstance signifies nothing, however; the usurper either has not his own will, or if he has, he cannot make it prevail when in contradiction to that of his protector. Besides, it is not to be presumed that he takes any interest in the destinies of a country which is not his fatherland, in which four years ago he was not known even by name to the vast majority of the nation, which he himself knew only by name, to which he has been brought and is sustained by foreign bayonets, and in which he is shedding the blood of patriotic Mexicans, who are maintaining their independence, to satiate a blind ambition for rule, which for his punishment he exercises only in appearance.

The undersigned always believed that the Emperor of the French would close up in this manner his interference in Mexico, when he should become convinced that it would not be possible for him to retain the whole republic as a French colony, and had the honor so to state to the honorable William H. Seward in the communication he addressed to him the 27th December, 1862, and which the President sent to the House of Representatives among the documents relating to Mexican affairs, transmitted with his message of 4th February, 1863.

That which then, however, did not exceed conjecture, although well founded, has come to be realized with the course of time and the development of events. News received from Mexico, from an entirely trustworthy source, has been confirmed by other advices received simultaneously from San Francisco, California, and from Paris; and such coincidences, combined with other antecedents which the undersigned is possessed of in this matter, do not leave him in the least doubt that if the settlement proposed has not been ratified, it is on the point of so being.

This conviction obliges the undersigned, in fulfilment of the duty which belongs to him as representative of the Mexican nation, to protest solemnly and energetically against any settlement made by the ex-Archduke of Austria in the name of Mexico, with the Emperor of the French, or with any other government, by which he alienes or hypothecates Mexican territory, or in any manner compromises the responsibility of the native country of the undersigned.

Addressing himself to the government of the United States, the undersigned does not think it necessary to halt to prove that the ex-Archduke of Austria only represents in Mexico the Emperor of the French, by whose army he was brought to that republic and is there sustained; and that therefore any settlement made between the ex-Archduke and the Emperor of the French, would have the same obligatory force on the Mexican nation as one concluded between the said Emperor and General Bazaine, commanding in chief the French forces in Mexico.

The undersigned has not thought that he should await for official notice of the conclusion of such settlement in order to protest against it. It is of such gravity and transcendency, not only to the interests of Mexico, but to those of the whole American continent, that he would consider himself to be wanting to his most sacred duties should he for a moment delay to take this step.

The undersigned thinks fit, in justification of his conduct in this affair, to remind the honorable Secretary of State of the United States of a fact slightly resembling the present, when the representatives of the French government in Mexico, protested against a treaty concluded between Mexico and the United States of much less importance than the present, only because of the vague rumors, more or less founded, that they had received that it had been concluded, and before they had official notice of its execution.

After the rupture between the allied Europeans at Orizaba, and when France alone continued making war on Mexico, the minister of the United States to this republic made a treaty with the Mexican government, in virtue of which the United States were to lend to Mexico eleven millions of dollars, Mexico hypothecating in payment for such amount the unoccupied lands of the Republic, the unsold national property, previously called church property, and the unsatisfied bonds and promissary notes for national property already aliened. This treaty was signed in the city of Mexico the 6th April, 1862; but as it did not receive ratification by the government of the United States it was not officially published, and only mere rumors, more or less founded, were circulated about its object and stipulations; notwithstanding which the representatives of the Emperor of the French addressed to the Mexican government, under date of the 15th April aforesaid, a note in which they said to it that they had been informed that said government had concluded or was about to conclude a treaty with a foreign government by which were sold, ceded, transferred, or hypothecated thereto a part of the lands and public revenues of Mexico, to the whole of which lands and revenues France made claim of right, in virtue of the fraudulent claims of her subjects. With the note which the undersigned had the honor to address to the honorable Secretary of State on the 2d June, 1862, he remitted a copy of such protest.

The undersigned avails of this opportunity to renew to the honorable William H. Seward the assurances of his most distinguished consideration:

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, February 25, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th instant, in which, in your character of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States, accredited to the government of the United States of America, you enter your protest, in the most formal, energetic, and solemn manner, against any settlement or cession, either made or to be made by the ex-Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, of Austria, in the name of Mexico, with the Emperor of the French, or with any other government, by which he alienates or hypothecates Mexican territory, or in any manner compromises the responsibility of the Mexican republic.

This measure you are led to take under the circumstances more fully detailed in your note, believing it to be in consonance with your most sacred duties as the representative of Mexico.

In reply, it affords me pleasure to state that the protest referred to will be

placed upon file in the archives of this department, there to remain a testimony to your course in the premises and as an additional evidence of the zealous and patriotic discharge of your functions as the minister of Mexico in the United States, and for such other uses and purposes as future events may render it necessary to apply it.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you, sir, the renewal of my very high and distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, April 20, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY AD INTERIM: I have the honor to transmit to you, with this note, by instructions of my government, and for the information of that of the United States, a copy of a communication addressed on the 2d of December last by General Slaughter, who commands the insurgent forces in the western district of Texas, to Don Tomas Mejia, the commander of the forces of the intervention in Matamoras, in relation to the Mexican steamer Orizaba, captured by the insurgents under the plea that she was manned by citizens of the United States.

From this communication we may infer what are the relations that have existed between the insurgents of both republics, and what are the sympathies which those of the United States entertain for those of Mexico.

This same communication was republished in the Gazette of Monterey of the 18th December referred to, preceded by an article, of which I also transmit a copy, in which the sentiments of sympathy expressed by General Slaughter are reciprocated, the interventionists of Monterey considering themselves satisfied with the explanations of the said general, and even praising his action in capturing the steamer Orizaba. The circumstance of the publication of such an article in the official paper of the so-called authorities of the intervention in New Leon is very significant.

These documents are an additional proof of the identity of political interests which exists between the insurgents of this country and the partisans of the French cause in Mexico, thus making manifest that which exists between the United States and the Mexican nation.

In confirmation of these impressions, I deem it proper to enclose the annexed slip from the Tribune, of New York, of the 13th instant, which contains a letter written at the city of Mexico on the 29th of March last, and in which important details upon the events which are occurring in that country, and especially in that part occupied by the French, in alluding to the course of these latter towards the citizens of the United States.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM HUNTER, &c., &c., &c.

[Translation, enclosure No. 1.]

MONTEREY, *December 18, 1864.*

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY AND THE EMPIRE.

We insert in continuation a communication from General J. E. Slaughter, who is now in command of the confederate troops in the western district of Texas, which he addresses to General Don Tomas Mejia, in reference to the capture of the steamer Orizaba, which vessel was seized in the waters of said confederacy.

The Monitor of the Frontier, which has first published said communication, says that the Orizaba was sailing under the flag of Mexico, and that, therefore, the seizure of the vessel is illegal. It is known, however, that the Orizaba belongs to citizens of the United States; that her cargo, as General Slaughter assures us, also belongs to them, and that the crew of the vessel is composed of Yankees.

Will it be permitted to the Yankees under the shadow of the Mexican flag to interfere with the operations of the war, and to mock with impunity the rights of a nation like the young confederated republic to which we are united by the double tie of commercial relations and mutual interests?

However much the contrary may be alleged, we believe that the interested parties will necessarily be compelled to have recourse to the admiralty court of the confederacy, which is the only competent one to decide whether or not there is room for the restitution of the Orizaba.

(Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE DIVISION OF TEXAS,

Brownsville, December 2, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated November 30, ultimo, in reference to the capture of the steamer Orizaba and the detention of her officers and crew by the authorities of the Confederate States.

I understand that the Orizaba was built by citizens of the United States, and that she belongs to these; that her cargo also belongs to them; that, besides, her crew is of the same nationality.

These reasons compelled me to take the steamer, but the case will be adjudged by the court of admiralty, and, if these points can be proven, it will be clear that her license to sail under the Mexican flag is a violation of the laws of that country, and consequently null.

The decrees issued by the courts of admiralty are a general rule respected by all nations.

Both the interested parties may recur to and have the right to prove by witnesses, either of themselves or by an attorney, before the court of admiralty, their respective assertions.

The captain and the owners have abused the Mexican flag to cover property which belongs to our enemies, and in such a case they will have to prefer a complaint to the court referred to, and not to the imperial government of Mexico.

I have replied to your note with all the frankness of a soldier and friend, and at the same time permit me, general, to assure you that the confederate government and authorities will use all their efforts to continue and perpetuate the most friendly relations with the imperial government, and whensoever my government shall promise it a thing, it will know how to comply with it, giving thus to it a loyal proof of true friendship.

Be assured, general, that any vessel which sails under the Mexican flag, and may be found in our waters, will be treated with every consideration.

Permit me, general, to repeat to you the assurances of my esteem and regard, and to subscribe myself, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. SLAUGHTER,

Brigadier General, Commanding Western District of Texas.

Señor Don TOMAS MEJIA,

General Commanding in Coahuila, New Leon, &c.

A true copy:

JUAN VALDEZ.

WASHINGTON, *April 20, 1865.*

A true copy:

IGNACIO MARISCAL,
Secretary.

[Enclosure No. 3.—From the New York Daily Tribune, April 13, 1865.]

LATER FROM MEXICO.—DELIGHTFUL COMPLICATION EXISTING AMONG THE DIFFERENT FOREIGN ELEMENTS COMPOSING THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.—MEXICO HOLDS THE TRUMP CARD.—FREEDOM OF THE MEXICAN PRESS.—LATE RIOT AT PUEBLA BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND AUSTRIANS.—INSULTS AND INDIGNITIES OFFERED TO AMERICANS.—DEPARTURE OF THE ARMY ON THE NORTHERN CAMPAIGN.—GREAT REJOICING OF THE FRENCH OVER THE LATE REPORTED REBEL SUCCESSES.—EARTHQUAKE ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 27.—ASCENT OF THE VOLCANO OF POPOCATAPETL BY TWO AMERICANS.—FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

MEXICO, March 29, 1865.

The discords in the royal "happy family" continue to grow more and more interesting. Composed as it is of French, Belgians, and Austrians, each striving for the ascendancy, and neither being able to place any confidence in the other, the position of affairs can easily be imagined. At present, Elvin, the chief of cabinet and confidant of the Empress Carlotta, seems to have the firmest hold, and is the Emperor's private counsellor. He was sent by the father of Carlotta to see that her interests were not neglected, and plays his cards well. No communication can reach the Emperor except through his hands, which gives him decided advantages over other members of the cabinet. All these strifes and bickerings in the imperial cabinet, in the end, amount to nothing, as the decisions have all to be submitted to the approval of Marshal Bazaine, who, in a moment, undoes the work of days, and, as the head of affairs in Mexico, dashes in pieces the fabrications of the imperial council. No appointments can be made, no decrees issued, no sentences approved—in fact, nothing done without being first submitted to this representative of Louis Napoleon, who, in turn, is now ruled by a notorious Mexican prostitute, through whom important business is transacted, appointments procured, rights to property established, &c., she, of course, requiring a *quid pro quo* for her services; so that, in the end, Mexico is decidedly ahead, this second Cleopatra, by her charms, ruling the destinies of the nation.

Several of the editors of newspapers in this city, having indulged in rather severe criticism in regard to the trial and summary execution of General Romero, who was shot in this city on the 18th instant, (but eight hours intervening between the close of the trial and his execution,) they were, by order of General Bazaine, called together on the 23d, and informed that the military order issued in 1863, declaring martial law throughout Mexico, had never been revoked; that the military power reigned supreme, and was above and beyond the criticism of the press, and from the decision of this tribunal there was no appeal; that any criticism will be considered a military offence for which the parties will be arrested and tried by court-martial. After this rebuke to all, several editors present were marched off under guard to await a hearing for past offences.

Bitter feelings exist between the French and Austrians now in Mexico. The memory of the battle-fields of Magenta and Solferino are too fresh in their minds to admit of other than unfriendly feelings, and the result is constant strife. Many of the French soldiers wear badges of honor awarded by their government for services on these hard-fought and victorious fields. A few days since some Austrians were passing by the quarters of some French zouaves, and one of them wearing an Austrian badge, for distinguished services at Solferino, was insulted by the zouave, and asked why he wore a Solferino badge. Without replying, the Austrian reached out his hand and tore the badge from the zouave and threw it on the ground. A general fight ensued, and each party receiving re-enforcements, it was feared it would lead to serious difficulty.

The late riot in Puebla is attributable to the same cause, notwithstanding the newspaper stories to the contrary. The French guards, having charge of some Mexican prisoners, were maltreating them by beating them with their swords. The friends of the prisoners remonstrated against such treatment of unarmed men, and were sustained by the Austrians. Gaining courage, they made an attack upon the French, in which they were aided by the Austrians, and for part of two days the riot continued, in which fire-arms were used freely and a considerable number of lives lost. Business was entirely suspended, and the prefect of Puebla telegraphed to the capital for assistance.

The general feeling among the French officials is animosity to all Americans, and knowing that they have the advantage of numbers and influence, they take every opportunity to show disrespect to them. Realizing "that every dog has his day," and that our day is not far distant, we show our contempt for their cowardly sneer by passing them by in silence. No justice can be had in Mexico for an American; so discretion is the better part of valor.

The late news received here, by way of Matamoras, of the defeat of Grant at Richmond, and the loss of eighty pieces of artillery, with a corresponding slaughter of federal troops, was received with great joy by the entire French concern in Mexico, from Maximilian down. The recent arrival of the steamer, however, has dispelled their happy illusion, and "Uncle Sam" again looms up before them as great a terror as the "ragman" is to the juveniles. The old adage "weary lies the head that wears a crown," was never more fully realized in the history of any monarch than in the case of the present Emperor of Mexico. Seated on

the apex of a volcano at home, ready at any moment to burst forth and destroy him, and with a constant fear of American interference, and a consequent withdrawal of his French supporters, leaving him at the mercy of a people whose rights he has outraged by intruding himself upon them, the poor Maximilian begins to feel that he has been made the tool of France, and wishes for his old home, preferring to meet the demands of bailiffs for unpaid tailors' and grocers' bills to those that will be made of him by the Mexican people.

The army is leaving the capital on the great northern campaign against Juarez, and the reported re-enforcements he has received from California. Of the truth of this we know nothing, as but few American newspapers are allowed to reach here. Of the number of Americans that have joined Juarez, we have all kinds of reports, ranging from eighteen individuals to an army of ten thousand—the former being generally believed to be nearest the truth.

On the night of the 27th an earthquake occurred. The shock took place at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock, and was of very short duration, and not very severe, though sufficiently so to be generally felt. The whole valley of Mexico is doubtless resting upon a bed of volcanic matter, which will some day burst forth and destroy this *modern Sodom*, the frequent earthquakes that occur being only warnings of the fate that will one day be hers.

The ascent of the great volcano of Popocatepetl, the highest point of land on the North American continent, has recently been made by two Americans—one a Californian, the other from Cumberland county, Pennsylvania; a full account of which is being prepared for the press.

E. J. M'C.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 2, 1865.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your note of the 20th of April last, transmitting, by instruction of your government, a correspondence which passed in December, 1864, between General Slaughter, a rebel officer in Texas, and General Mejia, commanding the forces of the French at Matamoras, in Mexico, relative to the capture of the Mexican steamer Orizaba, seized by the insurgents of the United States, and to the apparent good understanding then existing between said generals touching the relations of the two governments they claimed to represent.

You are also pleased to communicate an extract from the New York Tribune of the 13th of April, 1865, giving important details of the events then transpiring in the Mexican republic.

Thanking you for the information thus communicated, I pray you, sir, to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,

Washington, D. C.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, July 4, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY: I deem it my duty to call your attention to the printed documents which I have the honor to accompany with this note, and which show not only the friendly and cordial understanding which existed to the injury of the United States, between the insurgents against this government, in Texas, and the French, who are waging war against the government of Mexico in Matamoras, but also the measures taken in concert between the French and their agents on the one part, and the insurgents of Texas on the other, to resist the forces of the national government of Mexico, sent with the view of recov-

ering the port of Matamoras from the possession of the French. These documents, which were found in Brownsville at the time of the occupation of said city by the forces of the United States, have been recently published by a journal of New York, and I have sufficient reasons to consider them authentic.

In the communication which General James E. Slaughter, who commanded in Brownsville when Texas was in the possession of the insurgents, addressed on the 6th of April last to Colonel Thomas M. Jack, assistant adjutant general of the military department of Texas, it is stated that Don Santiago Vidaurri, who had been appointed a counsellor to the usurper, had returned to Monterey and had written to him that he had much important information to give him, which he could not trust to the pen. He also asserts that "the imperialist commander of the port of Bagdad, (a Belgian,) recently assigned to that command, informed him that he had secret instructions to permit the introduction of all kinds of arms and munitions of war, &c., that might be desired, and that they should pass freely, for the use of the confederacy."

It is also mentioned that there was in Monterey accredited to the agents of the French, called the "imperial authorities," an agent of the said confederacy named Mr. Querentes. General Slaughter himself adds: "General Mejia, (the French agent in Matamoras,) who now commands here, promised me to do everything he could in our favor;" and he can do no less than acknowledge that the Mexican people on the frontier states, with the exception of the personal friends of Vidaurri, are opposed to the so-called empire.

In another communication which the said General Slaughter addressed to Don Tomas Mejia, under date of the 10th of May last, referring to the exportation of cotton from the south, which has been carried on through Matamoras, he says to him the following: "The trade which the Confederate States are now carrying on through its authorized agents with Mexico and other countries through the ports of Mexico has been carried on with the consent of the Mexican authorities." General Slaughter means to say, *of the French agents in Mexico.*

Colonel J. S. Ford, who held, temporarily, the command in Brownsville, in the name of the so-called confederacy, communicated to Don Tomas Mejia, under date of the 28th of May last, that he was about to station some forces on the banks of the Rio Grande to attack a force "which was in communication with those of the United States, and which probably was acting in concert with it," and he recommends to him to station other troops on the side of Mexico to act in concert with the confederates in the said attack, because, "it is the duty and the interest of both governments (the imperial of Mexico, and the confederated of the south) to destroy and to disperse such bands," which shows that the French and the insurgents have acted in concert against the forces of the United States.

They have done the same thing while treating of the forces of the Mexican government. The printed official communication, which I also enclose, dated on the 2d of March aforesaid, which was addressed to me by General Negrete, commanding in chief the national forces of Mexico, shows, that having received instructions to attack Matamoras, he saw, in approaching the city, that the artillery from Brownsville covered that post, that the confederates prepared themselves to enter into the fight at the time he approached the city, and that they maintained a hostile attitude while he remained in its vicinity, thus finding himself compelled finally to withdraw therefrom on that account.

Besides this statement of General Negrete's, which justifies (proves) the connivance of the confederates with the French against the national government of Mexico, we have the testimony of General Slaughter himself, the commander in chief of Brownsville, who, in the note which he addressed to the assistant adjutant general, Colonel Jack, on the 18th of May, aforesaid, reporting his proceedings at the time General Negrete was pressing upon Matamoras, says,

that said general knowing that he (Slaughter) was a decided imperialist, and fearing that his sympathies might influence his official conduct, he sent him a commissioner to ask how he would act during the attack upon Matamoras. In reply, he said to him that the confederates received their provisions through Matamoras, and that if the port was occupied by the Mexicans it would be blockaded by the French, for which reason it was to his interest that it should remain in possession of the former. Further on, General Slaughter adds: "At the same time that I maintained a strict neutrality, I concealed my intentions in such a manner that I obtained the same results which would have been attained if I had taken an active part in the contest. General Negrete raised the siege and retired, being fearful of the result, should he be compelled to meet our forces."

These are the principal facts, which are to be drawn from the documents annexed. In view of them, I think it would not be presumptuous on my part to say that they involved acts of hostility against the United States, for which the French agents, who occupy the frontier, are responsible. This being, however, a question exclusively concerning the government of the United States, which, I doubt not, will attach to it such importance as its own prudence and sense of high dignity may induce it to regard as most appropriate, I would not mention it, if at the same time the facts mentioned did not constitute open acts of hostility against the government which I have the honor to represent; committed by armed citizens of the United States, whom, whatever may have been their aspirations, the Mexican government never considered as an independent nation, and did not even recognize in them the character of belligerents, having for this reason, now, its clear right to ask reparation for these grievances from the government of the United States, within the limits of whose jurisdiction the aggressors are.

With the reservation, therefore, to again return to the consideration of this grave matter when I shall receive the instructions which my government may communicate to me respecting it, to ask the reparation which the outraged rights of Mexico may require, I deem it my duty to protest at this time, as I do protest, against the open hostility with regard to Mexico, of the rebel general Slaughter and his followers in Brownsville, saving harmless all the injuries which the Mexican republic may have suffered, and may suffer, from this act, in order to ask reparation for them at such time and in such manner as it may be proper.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

NEW ORLEANS, June 17, 1865.

Advices from the Rio Grande border are to the 10th instant. They contain the following interesting account of the late revolution in northern Mexico, and the movement on Matamoras. It is in the form of a letter to citizen Matias Romero, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic to Washington. They call it here Negrete's official report:

Having been invested by the citizen President of the republic, with extraordinary powers to make war against the traitors and those who aid and abet them, I commenced operations against the city of Matamoras, arriving in sight of it with my command on the 30th ultimo. While on the march I learned that the traitor Mejia, in order to resist my attack, relied upon the merchants of said city, who were armed, and the confederates of North America on the left bank of the Brazos.

This information was confirmed by various reliable sources, from which I also learned that artillery belonging to the American troops of the south were in readiness in the main quare in Matamoras. From my own eyes I know that the confederates of North America appeared armed on the other side of the river since I approached the city, and that even to

this moment they maintain a hostile attitude, moving in my rear and compelling me to employ a part of my cavalry to watch them. These facts agree fully and completely with the open hostility shown by the confederates toward the forces of Colonel Francisco Naranjo, when this officer pursued the traitors who garrisoned the village of Piedras Negras. The latter escaped by crossing the Bravo, with the anticipated consent and protection of the former.

In view of these circumstances I have determined to withdraw my troops, believing that it would not be advisable to attack a city garrisoned by soldiers, re-enforced by merchants, (most of them foreigners,) with a numerical force superior to mine, and which, I have no doubt, are to be aided by the confederates in the storming of the place. The forces in the service of the secession party, which are now on the banks of the Bravo, have observed against those of the legitimate government of Mexico a conduct entirely opposed to the war which this republic maintains, making them accomplices of the vile attempt of Napoleon III to destroy the sovereignty of Mexico, which is also a threat to the sovereignty of all the republics of the New World.

It is therefore but natural to infer that the confederates, like the Mexican traitors, are allies of the French, and that the French protect the enemies of the United States government, which is exclusively recognized by ours. The gravity of the case, and the importance that it comes to the knowledge of the United States government, impel me to address you this note, which I transmit to the minister of foreign relations.

Accept the assurance of my high consideration and esteem. Independence and liberty!

M. NEGRETE.

BEFORE MATAMOROS, May 2, 1865.

A true copy.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1865.

IGNACIO MARISCAL.

Secretary.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS WEST SUB-DISTRICT, TEXAS,

Brownsville, January 10, 1865.

GENERAL: I have the honor to state, for your information, that a few days since the judge of the district court of Matamoras notified me of the possession of certain claims of citizens of Mexico against the Confederate States, and that if payment was not made promptly he should feel it his duty to issue his writs of attachment in the case and to order the seizure of cotton belonging to the confederate government, and to take such other steps necessary to secure a speedy settlement. Under these circumstances I feel it my duty to urge you, if in your power, to stop any proceedings touching this subject until the matter can be laid before the imperial government for its consideration and decision.

* * * * *

The commerce now being carried on by the Confederate States, through their authorized agents, with Mexico and other countries through the ports of Mexico, was done by the consent of the Mexican authorities. * * * * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. E. SLAUGHTER,

Brigadier General Commanding.

Señor Don TOMAS MEJIA, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1865.

A true copy.

IGNACIO MARISCAL,

Secretary.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS WEST SUB-DISTRICT, TEXAS,

Brownsville, April 6, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to state, for the information of district and department headquarters, that I have exerted every means to retain and increase the feeling of friendship between the imperial and confederate governments.

Governor Vidaurri has been appointed one of the "Council of the Nation," and has returned to Monterey. I received a letter from him, in which he states he has much information to give to me which he cannot safely submit to writing. In view of this, as Colonel S. Benavides has received a sick leave of absence from district headquarters, and as he was a mutual friend of Governor Vidaurri and myself, I have directed him to proceed to Monterey and place himself in personal communication with him. Upon his return I trust I will be able to give more definite information as to the state of feeling towards our government and cause by the imperial government. I have made an arrangement with General Mejia, commander of the imperial forces on this frontier, for the mutual rendition of criminals, a copy of which has been forwarded to district headquarters. Its first practical working was the

return of three thieves, (who happened to be deserters from Jones's battery,) whose influence was great and pernicious. This course on the part of General Mejia, together with the general impression that the arrangement had been made between us for the return of deserters, caused the United States consul to address a letter of protest, which was far from proving satisfactory to him in its results, as he obtained in reply only a letter reflecting severely upon the acts and conduct of the federals in several instances in connexion with the Mexicans. I am promised a copy of this correspondence, which, when obtained, I shall promptly forward.

The imperial commander of the port of Bagdad, (a Belgian,) lately assigned to the command, informs me he has private instructions to permit all arms, ammunition, and munitions of war, &c., to be introduced and passed for the use of the confederacy which are desired. This is similar to the proposal privately extended to General Mejia, and previously reported to district headquarters. They show an evident feeling of friendship for our cause.

It is known by the Emperor, and strongly conjectured by myself, that the Juarez party and the federals are in correspondence with each other. I received information a few days since that a Mexican bearer of despatches from Juarez to the federals crossed the river into my district at Piedras Negras on the 17th ultimo. I have a large party of scouts out endeavoring to intercept him. If successful, I hope to be able, through this means, to complicate matters between Mexico and the United States to such a degree as to work to our advantage.

The feeling of all the imperial officers on this frontier is strongly in our favor. They deem our cause strongly allied to their own in many respects, and are ready and ever willing to extend every possible aid which can be done without directly bringing their own government in contact with the United States.

We have already, in the person of Mr. Querentes, a commissioner of government, who is resident at Monterey. I do not think that any commissioner sent by the general commanding the department could be of any service in Mexico, as I presume Mr. Slidell has been using every effort in his power to affect the new government.

Governor Vidaurri will, I feel certain, further our interest in every way in his power, so long as he retains his immediate position.

General Mejia, the present commander here, promised me to do all in his power to aid us. I feel certain he entertains the kindest feelings for us all.

I may as well add here that the people on this frontier, with the exception of the Vidaurri party, are all opposed to the imperial government, and all look to federal assistance.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. E. SLAUGHTER,
Brigadier General Commanding.

Colonel THOMAS M. JACK,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1865.

A true copy.

IGNACIO MARISCAL, *Secretary.*

[Enclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS WEST SUB-DISTRICT, TEXAS,
Brownsville, May 18, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to state, for the information of the commanding general, that during the late excitement in Mexico, arising from the appearance of the liberal party under command of General Negrete before Matamoras, I was waited on by a deputation from General Negrete to ascertain my policy. Knowing me to be personally a strong imperialist, he feared it might influence my official acts.

I explained to him (through his agents) that we were dependent to a great extent upon Matamoras and its port for supplies for this country, and if the liberals occupied it it would be blockaded by the French, and it would be impossible for our government to receive anything through that channel; hence it was to our interest for the imperial party to occupy the country.

I avoided committing myself by a direct or positive answer.

While I maintained strict neutrality, I veiled my intentions to such an extent as to reap the same results which would have been attained by actual assistance rendered. General Negrete raised the siege and retired, being fearful of the result should he be compelled to meet our forces.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, &c., &c.,

JAS. E. SLAUGHTER,
Brigadier General Commanding.

Colonel THOMAS M. JACK,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1865.

A true copy.

IGNACIO MARISCAL, *Secretary.*

[Enclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS WEST SUB-DISTRICT, TEXAS,
Brownsville, May 28, 1865.

GENERAL: * * * I am satisfied that there is an organized band of robbers whose operations extend to both sides of the Rio Grande, and who are in communication with the Yankees, and possibly act in conjunction with them.

Recent developments render the conclusion inevitable that no organization connected in any manner with the government of the United States can be supposed to have much regard for the interests and friendship of the imperial government of Mexico, and that it is the common duty and the common interest of your government and of mine to break up and disperse such organizations. I shall place troops on the river for that purpose, and should be pleased to have them act in concert with yours.

I have the honor to renew my assurance of regard and personal consideration. Your obedient servant,

J. S. FORD, *Colonel Commanding pro tem.*

General Don TOMAS MEJIA, &c.

WASHINGTON, July 4, 1865.

A true copy.

IGNACIO MARISCAL,
Secretary.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 4, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of July 4, 1865, calling my attention to the printed documents enclosed therein, which consist of a correspondence between the insurgent leaders of the rebellion on the southern borders of Texas and the officers of the French army operating in the same neighborhood in Mexico, manifesting a spirit of hostility, on the part of these insurgent citizens of the United States, against the government you represent, and against which acts of hostility you solemnly protest.

In answer, I have to inform you that the matters referred to in your note, to which I have the honor of replying, shall receive the attention to which they are entitled.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c., *Washington, D. C.*

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, July 8, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY: Through an accident there have fallen into my hands two letters from Mr. William M. Gwin, formerly senator of California, who is occupied at the present time in carrying into effect a plan of colonization in the frontier states of the Mexican republic, which letters are dated at the city of Mexico on the 18th of March last, and directed one to Colonel John Winthrop, of New York, in care of Mr. Royal Phelps, of the same city; and the other to his wife and daughters living at Paris. On one leaf of the latter is found another letter written by Mr. William M. Gwin, junior, to his mother, on the 16th and 18th of said month of May. Although Mr. Gwin does not sign the letters referred to, there is abundant reason for believing that they have been written by him; the hand-writing, the context, and more especially the circumstance that the son's letter is signed, leave no doubt in regard to the authenticity of those letters.

Along with said letters there have come into my possession two more, one with the mark "confidential" on it, signed by "Massey," and directed to the Hon. Benjamin Wood, of New York, and the other a correspondence written by the same person and directed to the newspaper "The Daily News," of that city. Both are dated at the city of Mexico, on the said 18th of May.

In the letter of which I enclose you a copy, and which was addressed to me on the 1st instant by Colonel Don Enrique A. Mejia, of the Mexican army, you will be informed of the manner in which those letters fell into his possession. For what it may amount to, I will state to you that the despatches of the legation of the United States in Mexico for the department over which you preside, referred to by Colonel Mejia, I placed in the hands of Mr. Hunter on the 14th of June last.

The importance of the documents adverted to, has induced me to send the originals to your department, in order that the government of the United States may take such steps in regard to them as it shall deem compatible with its safety and its interests. It appears from them that Mr. Gwin is formally engaged in carrying into effect his project of colonization; that, although he does not say so clearly, having written with much distrust, through a presentiment that his letters might be intercepted, that project is known to be hostile to the United States, since he proposes to take to the frontier of Mexico all the discontented citizens of the United States living in the south, with the design of organizing them there under the protection and with the assistance of France. It appears also that he has, so far as the French Emperor is concerned, *all that he needs* for carrying into effect this undertaking, and that there are orders from said Emperor to General Bazaine, commander-in-chief of the French army in Mexico, to lend to Gwin all the assistance which he may need in the development of his plan. The sanction of Maximilian—the puppet whom the Emperor of the French has placed in Mexico in order that he might seem to be the sovereign of the country—which was the only thing wanted for the realization of the scheme, had not yet been obtained, but was on the eve of being obtained, as well because all the supporters of the usurper considered the plan referred to as the only salvation of the so-called empire, as because the members of Maximilian's cabinet who were opposed to the plan had left their places in order to be succeeded by others who were favorable to it, and more especially because it is plainly to be seen that the ex-Archduke of Austria has no will of his own in the affairs of Mexico, since, he having been placed in the country by the Emperor of the French, and having been sustained by him militarily and pecuniarily, in the part of the Mexican republic occupied by the invading army, nothing is done but what the French commanders decide to do of themselves or in virtue of orders from their government, and the ex-Archduke is only to keep up appearances, and during the course of events to indicate to the Emperor of the French what may be proper or necessary to be done finally in Mexico.

All these important reports are corroborated in a letter from Vera Cruz of the 1st of June, published in the "Times," at New Orleans, a copy of which I have the honor to transmit to you.

I have sent to my government a copy of the enclosed letters, in order that on its part it may take the necessary steps to frustrate the plans hostile to Mexico which the Emperor of the French is endeavoring to develop in the republic. Believing at the same time that such plans are equally hostile to the United States, I send you the original letters, in order that you may make of them such use as you may deem proper.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. Secretary, to renew to you assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

Ex. Doc. 8—2.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I regret that urgent business calls me to New York. I will explain in this letter the manner in which the papers submitted to you came to my hands.

On leaving the city of Mexico, I was requested by Mr. Corwin, the acting chargé d'affaires of the United States, to take charge of some despatches for the State Department, as he feared his official correspondence had been tampered with. As there was a probability that I would be searched, he sent his despatches by another conveyance to Vera Cruz, there to be delivered to me. Events justified this precaution, as I was arrested on arriving at Vera Cruz, my trunks searched, and all papers taken from me, including my passport as bearer of despatches; the official notes were demanded of me, and as I denied having them, I was thrown into prison, allowed to communicate with no one. Finding nothing to criminate me, after several days, I was liberated and allowed to embark for Havana. On board of the steamer I received the despatches the French had been so anxious to procure.

On returning my papers, I received among them those now in your possession, probably taken from some other traveller, which being open I examined, and considered of sufficient importance to present to you.

Before leaving the city of Mexico I was shown the original letter from Napoleon to Marshal Bazaine, recommending Mr. Gwin's plan, as submitted to him, and directing the marshal to furnish the troops demanded by Mr. Gwin. The object is to colonize Sonora and other frontier States with veteran confederates, as a barrier to any aggression of the United States, and there create a power always hostile, and, with the assistance of the French, sufficiently formidable to resist all attempts against Maximilian.

French forces had already left Mexico for Sonora and the northern frontier in combination with Mr. Gwin.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ENRIQUE A. MEJIA.

MATIAS ROMERO, Esq.,
Minister of Mexico, &c.

A copy. Washington, July 8, 1865.

IGNO MARISCAL.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

MEXICO, May 16, 1865.

MY DEAR MOTHER: Nothing has occurred since I last wrote; in fact there is nothing to occur; all business has come to a stand-still, because of the Emperor's absence. When his august Majesty has sufficiently amused himself with rural sports, he may take a notion to return to his sleeping capital and wake us up from our present state of lethargy. I am learning to exercise the admirable quality of patience, which means I begin to fall into the philosophical way of taking things coolly—the best thing a man can do in Mexico, where the object of the community is to approach as nearly as possible to a state of vegetation, and to imitate in all its lively peculiarities that interesting exerescence—a knot on a tree. Colonel Talcott arrived a day or two ago. He has been unwell in consequence of too great exertion, and can scarcely walk, from having sprained his ankle. We breakfasted with the family on Saturday; the old man read them that part of your letter about Spiller. I think they are a little uneasy on account of his prolonged absence. The marriage, you know, was to have taken place last month; now no one can say when it will come off. The old man is firmly of the conviction that Spiller is going to act the dog. Your letters were an immense satisfaction. It was very consoling to hear you were in good spirits, although I know you must still cherish in some small degree that pleasing reflection that, some day or other, we'll find ourselves a-starving. I am altogether opposed to ever being reduced to such an extremity, and have determined, at the hazard of proving you a bad prophet, to make a fortune. That's a fixed fact upon the principle, be there a will, then wisdom finds the way. I've got the will and trust to luck for wisdom, and when that fortune is made, should you be hungry and a wanderer, I'll give you food and shelter.

May 18. The old man saw the marshal the other day, but nothing resulted from the interview. He renewed his protestations of friendship, and declared he would urge the old man's claims to the utmost. We must content ourselves with an existence of idleness a while longer, for no steps can be taken without the Emperor. The old man saw Almonte to-day; he thinks there'll be no trouble, and so far as he himself is concerned, we may look for strong support.

The minister of foreign affairs has gone to Europe, and every one says Almonte is to come n. He will then be all-powerful, and with his favorable disposition towards our plans we are pretty certain to carry the day. Things are progressing as smoothly as possible, only it provokes one to be detained when there is no sufficient cause. To think of our being kept

here holding our hands, when those prodigious mines are inviting us to fortune, and all because the Emperor will stuff birds! I feel very easy about Mexican affairs, but I'm dreadfully blue about the south. Andy Johnson's speeches breathe such a heinous spirit that I can see nothing ahead but extermination. I shouldn't be surprised if there were re-enacted on the American continent the massacre and havoc of the French revolution. It is horrible to contemplate the situation of the country. I am afraid they will commit excesses to which all the horrors that have gone before will be as nothing. It's dreadful to fall in battle, but it's ten times more dreadful to die on the scaffold. Johnson says treason can have no extenuation; it is a crime that merits the direst punishment. That's to say, all traitors should be hung, and as we are all traitors there's nothing left for us but hanging. It really makes me sick when I think of the bloody agony that awaits the southern people. But we must learn to suppress our feelings; it may be, after all, that our only home will be among these people. If the old man shouldn't succeed, we shall have to live in California, and indeed we are fortunate to have even such a refuge.

I am very glad aunt Sue is going to Europe; she'll be a great comfort to you. The old man wrote the judge from Havana, and said, when the time came and he got fairly started he would let him know. He told the judge that uncle Alick must come with him, to furnish the necessary means, which should be paid on his arrival. Tell Carrie her letter was delightful and to write me every mail. I promise to answer her every one. Tell sister Lucy to write me, and not to get married. Love to all.

Your affectionate son,

WM. M. GWIN.

NOTE.—On the same note-paper sheet appears the following:

[Enclosure No. 3.]

MY DEARLY-BELOVED WIFE AND DAUGHTERS: The startling news from the United States has made the blood of every southern sympathizer run cold with horror. No one will be safe in our native country. How I thank Providence that I have cast my lot elsewhere, and that very soon I will have a home for my wife and children, where they will be safe from oppression, and where we have every prospect of immediate and permanent prosperity. My policy is on every man's lips as the only one that will save this empire. The Emperor lingers most unaccountably away from the capital, but his minister having charge of this matter considers it so pressing that he has gone to him with it more than a week ago. No one doubts that there will be an entire change of ministry, with one or two exceptions, when the Emperor returns, and that his entire ministry will be in favor of my policy. It seems that he is effecting this change in his absence, and that he remains away to accomplish it. If I dared write I could give you names of persons who have approached me with this news that would leave no doubt on your minds that all of these things will happen, and that very soon. The delay is unpleasant, but the certainty of success that will follow this delay is a great consolation, especially when everything is so dark for us everywhere else. Never have a doubt of my success. I have less now than ever. Willie is getting into heavy business. They are proposing to him to give him the entire control of the richest gold mine in the world, in Sinaloa, and he is one of three who have asked for the concession of all the railroads in Sonora. He will succeed in both, and either of them will make a dozen fortunes. Brent and his whole army will soon be in Texas. I will write more at large by British steamer.

As ever, your's, devotedly.

(No signature to this.)

NOTE.—Enclosures No. 2 and No. 3 are written on the same sheet of note paper, and came in an envelope addressed as follows:

"Mrs. Wm. M. Gwin, 55 Boulevard Malesherbes, Paris, France."

The whole of which is again enclosed in another envelope, addressed to—

"Messrs. Van den Broek & Co., 60 Rue de la Chaussee d'Antin, Paris, France."

[Enclosure No. 4.]

MEXICO, May 18, 1865.

MY DEAR COLONEL: The news from the United States appals every one here, and paralyzes all business. What will happen next is the constant inquiry. The Emperor's absence must seem to persons at a distance extraordinary, but it is now developing itself that he is bringing about a radical change in his counsels, and there will be an entire change of policy on his return. Three of the ruling men in his counsels have been displaced since he left, and two (and they the most obnoxious to my ideas of government, and most opposed to my project)

have been sent abroad, if not in banishment, equivalent to it. No one here doubts but Almonte will come into power, and from the first he has declared that my plan of colonization is the only salvation for the empire. The same sentiment is uttered by every one in favor of the empire. In fact, if anything in the future can be certain in this country, at an early day you will see a decree opening North Mexico to the enterprise of the world. What a people we can assemble there if this policy is adopted. What a country it will be in a very few years. The recent startling events, and the policy I have indicated, causes delay that is unpleasant, but no doubt of ultimate success. I have never been so confident as at present. Say to my good and highly-valued friend, Mrs. W., that we will very soon meet again in the most delightful spot on the globe, and there will not be a cloud to obscure the future. She will eat her Christmas dinner in the palace, to a certainty, and what a time we will have! The day I leave here I will send an order to France for a large supply of the best wines in Europe, and they will be mellow to the taste by Christmas. This is not romance. The stern reality that confronts every one of my sentiments banishes all romance. I must have realities. The crusades will be surpassed in the emigration to the country of my future home, and such a people never moved from one country to another. You and your wife are among the *very* few that gave me a cheer of success, and that success will be marred if you do not participate in it. But, like me, you must be patient for a time; it may be but for a very short time. I confess I chafe at every hour's delay, but I do not permit this to depress me or damp my energies. I have to deal in generalities, for fear of accidents, but you may count on having a home where you will not only be prosperous and happy, but honored a one who, from the first, had faith.

I may introduce your name in some important concessions that may be necessary to secure the success of my policy, but you may rely on it, if I do, benefits of a no equivocal character will result to you. Every one with a particle of enterprise in his composition have their eyes turned to the north, but I will be first on the ground. I shall open new books, and capitalists near you had better wait coming events before they venture their money. When I write you to come bring as many millions as you please and they will soon turn into tens of millions. Even the most skeptical here now acknowledge that no such country exists on the earth unoccupied. But I have to write so obscurely, for fear of accidents, that you may not comprehend me, but have faith that I know what I am about.

With my best love to Mrs. W., I remain very truly yours.

(No signature.)

NOTE: This letter came in an envelope addressed as follows: "Colonel John Winthrop," and both enclosed in another envelope addressed to: "Royal Phelps, esq., 22 East Sixteenth street, New York, United States of America."

Enclosures No. 3 and No. 4 are *evidently* in the same handwriting, which is believed to be that of William M. Gwin, senior.

[Enclosure No. 5.]

Mr. Massey to Mr. Wood.

Private.]

MEXICO, May 18, 1865.

DEAR SIR: Just on enclosing the within very hastily written communication, I hear of a person to leave in the morning for New York, and I avail myself of the opportunity to send by him. You see I have been cautious but positive about Doctor Gwin. He, my family, General Stone, and two others *mess* together; they are all in my rooms several times a day, or I or we in theirs. I see Mr. Soulé daily, all in the same scheme—Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Durango; they have *all they want* from the French Emperor; the approval of Maximilian is *desired*. Marshal Bazaine has certain orders anyhow; the thing will be carried out, and Gwin will go out as director general, &c.; Stone's project was distinct, as I have stated, and accidental. They harmonize, however, admirably. I am distinctly *pledged*, in presence of witnesses, to have *any* scheme of mine carried out; I shall have them. There are fortunes in it, and a very peculiar kind of colonization alone permitted. I am too much hurried to say more; I must say, however, that *our* affair is the largest, and best, and most rapid ever conceived or granted in any country. I dropped a line to the Empress the other day, and in two hours had an answer entirely satisfactory. Nothing will be finished till the Emperor returns—said now not till 3d or 4th next month; and when he does return, he has weighty matters awaiting him, so that I fear a still longer delay. Hence I cannot get through in time for the next (British) steamer of the 1st. Nothing is being finished in his absence; I do trust that, in the midst of the turbulent times about you, you have sequestered ample means for our project; if I knew otherwise I would be off on another thing. But *with* ours, other "*big things*" follow. I am sorry you have not written to me; I know not your hopes or wishes. You *ought* to have sent me some money. It is hard to financier on nothing *indefinitely*, and I have concentrated my whole strength on our scheme. I enclose a letter for my daughter—please mail to her; and also, as I am delayed about making money, I want, and *particularly request*, you to send to her address a *draft* for \$200 in *gold*; she needs it; her

term is out, and I have written that you will send it to her; don't neglect it—that is, if you and I are ever to have anything in common, and your fortune is secure if you will attend to me a little. God knows what I will do about money if I don't get our scheme through quick. Have never seen a copy of the "News."

Your friend,

MASSEY.

Hon. B. Wood.

[Enclosure No. 6.]

CITY OF MEXICO, May 19, 1865.

Editor N. Y. Daily News:

The "government" is still on its travels; that is, the Emperor continues his recreations about Orizaba; consequently, civil events make no progress—everything apparently waiting for the Emperor's return. His absence has been, and is, exceedingly unpopular. He suffers nothing to be *finished* without him, and documents and messages sent to him are seemingly shelved. In consequence of important news from France by the late French steamer, great changes are being effected, and great improvements expected. The loan of \$50,000,000 is sufficient, with the income of the country, to "run" the government for two years, within which time it is at leisure to "consolidate" itself. The vote in the French Chambers, to continue French troops in Mexico, was unexpectedly large in its favor, and guarantees French protection of governmental stability here. That an improvement in the administration of affairs is foreshadowed, is indicated in the very sudden removal of Elpin, (called chief of cabinet, really chief *clerk* of cabinet,) who has been reputed to have exerted an overshadowing influence over the Emperor and Empress, and has been exceedingly unpopular with both natives and foreigners. Elpin was with the Emperor on his trip; and some instructions received from France were evidently impressive, for he left on the steamer at once, without so much as returning to the capital for a "change of clothes." He is said to have been sent on a special mission to Belgium and France; so, also, Ramirez, the secretary of state, has been sent on a mission, it is said, to London and Brussels. The Emperor has a convenient way of substituting honors! The secretary of the interior has also been permitted to resign. It is not stated why he, too, was not provided with a foreign mission, although it is known that special acts rendered his "loyalty" questionable. All these cabinet vacancies are as yet unsupplied, and will remain so till the Emperor's return. It would be useless to give rumors as to who will fill them. Of course, letter-writers from Havana and Mexico will have heralded the return of Dr. Gwin from Paris to the city of Mexico. All manner of things will doubtless be written. Those who know the gallant and noble ex-senator know that he knows how to keep his own counsels. My next letter may tell your readers as many particulars as they are interested in. For the present I may only say that the Dr. is not a man to fail. He comes back in the best of health and spirits. All misunderstandings have been cleared up. All talk of the Dr. being made duke, viceroy, or anything of the kind, is all stuff; it never entered the brain of anybody but scribblers. The Dr. has a higher, nobler ambition than that kind of nonsense smacks of. That he is in process of full success there can be no shadow of doubt. Soon a domain as large as France, and composed of four of Mexico's richest states, will be open to the most beautiful a species of immigration ever known—all to become and remain a part of the empire of Mexico. Soon after the Emperor's return I will be in a position to tell your readers more. Those who are tired of revolutions, and of mobocracies, and political corruptions, may look forward with hope.

By an accidental coincidence General Charles P. Stone got upon the same steamer at Havana upon which Dr. Gwin had taken passage for Mexico. I would scarcely allude to it, were it not that letter-writers will probably indulge in a variety of speculations. General Stone was engaged in the survey of Sonora in 1859, under the celebrated Jecker contract. Some of Jecker's claims having lately been audited by the imperial government, General Stone came on to see about his own interests. He came with a practical experience, too—of infinite importance in the near development of Sonora. His purposes and plans in relation thereto were totally independent of and disconnected with the larger enterprise of Dr. Gwin; yet each will materially assist the other. Within a very few weeks I am sanguine that all will be in process of successful accomplishment. Till I write again, your readers must wait, and take anything said in other journals with a very large "grain of salt."

Military matters are not very exciting. Of course you have heard of the entry and temporary occupation of Saltillo and Monterey by the troops of Negrete. Upon getting over to Matamoras they met with Mejia, re-enforced by five hundred fresh troops, and the Juarists precipitately retired. It is expected that they will be surrounded and taken prisoners. This is the only band of any size known to be in an organized condition in Mexico. Of course, as I have repeatedly said, it will in all probability require many years to get rid of this guerrilla business. Mexico has been used to it for these many years, under all forms and shapes of government, and such an inveterate habit of a people cannot easily be broken up. The state of Michoacan is greatly disturbed—there is nothing like repose in it. It is a large

state, and mountainous. Small parties can make very destructive irruptions; and French and Belgian troops have both suffered severely by surprise. Re-enforcements are almost constantly arriving at Vera Cruz. The vomito has been playing sad havoc already in the unfortunate city just mentioned. It is extremely dangerous for any one unacclimated to pass a single night there. It will be a great blessing * * * * *

[Here a portion of the third page of the letter seems to have been either torn or cut off.] to Mexico and the world. Fortunately, it is going on with all possible vigor. The company constructing it have subleased eleven leagues of the most labor to a French and Belgian company; the part which includes the mountains to be done in two years. One single bridge will cost \$2,000,000, and will be made in England. The other part of the route goes on. The iron will be hauled over the mountains. It is in contemplation to finish this end, from the city of Mexico to Puebla, within two years.

The tragic events in the United States are, of course, the almost universal subject of conversation. It might possibly come under the head of "news" to tell you some of the comments in the highest circles. But you must pardon my refraining, because they would be denounced as "copperhead" representations. And the events have been too thick and fast for a proper reference to them in a brief letter. From the stand taken by Andy Johnson and his Attorney General and Secretary of War, it is evident that they must have their hands too full for years to come to permit his talk about the "Monroe doctrine" to be any more than talk. Such vindictiveness in conquerors was never before seen in the world's history, and that it will bring the destruction of its authors is written in the book of destiny. Either to "restore" or to "subjugate" is the dream of an inebriate, under the policy shadowed forth. The carriage of the remains of Lincoln through the cities of the country, the uses made of that display in exasperating the lowest passions of humanity, has afforded scandal of the American name all over the world too glaring for remark.

Yours, truly,

JOURNALIST.

NOTE.—This communication seems to be in the same handwriting as enclosure No. 6 of this series.

[Enclosure No. 7.—From the New York World of June 19, 1865.]

EMIGRATION TO MEXICO.

The minister of public works at Mexico also publishes a notice that a citizen of the United States, Dr. Thomas C. Massey, has been allowed to establish agencies for emigration to Mexico, *as a private enterprise, solely*, with no responsibility incurred by the government of the Emperor Maximilian.

[Enclosure No. 8.—From Vera Cruz, June 1. Correspondence of the New Orleans Times.]

The Emperor is still on his travels, stuffing birds and shooting deer, while the Empress is at a standstill awaiting his return to the capital. The last news from the interior is of a serious nature. Count Pottier has been defeated by the liberals in the state of Michoacan, the count wounded and his troops badly beaten, though he, of course, claims a victory, only retreating for want of water, when he says in the first part of the report that the fight occurred by a lake and during two hours' rain.

The liberals, under Negrete, still hold Monterey, Saltillo, and all the country bordering on the Rio Grande, and though the attack on Matamoras failed, they have been able to hold all the rest. The state of Tamaulipas, with the exception of the ports of Matamoras and Tampico, are entirely held by the liberals. Everywhere in the country the people seem to be rising against the French. The only part of the country really held by the imperialists is the environs of the capital and the road to Vera Cruz.

In the capital things continue the same as ever; there is no accord between the French commander and the imperial government. Nothing has been done to recuperate the finances of the country, though the news by the last steamer seems to indicate that the great project of the imperial loan-lottery will meet with success. If an individual tried to raise the wind by such means he would be indicted for swindling. Imagine, for bonds whose face shows 500 francs, the lender pays 350 francs. They bear six per cent. interest. Every year 3,000,000 are to be raffled and prizes drawn varying from half a million to twenty-five thousand for the benefit of bondholders. Besides, after fifty years their capital is to be doubled—that is to say, they receive one thousand francs with the interest payable semi-annually in Paris. The French government keeps the first amount paid in to cover the prizes and pay itself, and Maximilian only gets about two million. In one year he has spent \$6,000,000, and is no nearer pacifying the country than he was six months ago. It is true he has in his cabinet some liberals, but the party will have none of him.

The confederates still continue to flock to Mexico. There is no doubt Dr. Gwin will get his project through. It only awaits the signature of Maximilian to become a law. He goes out as director general of emigration for the states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, and Tamaulipas, with extraordinary powers and *eight thousand* French troops to back him. The emigration is to be strictly southern, or confederate. Ten thousand confederates are to be armed and paid by the empire, but kept in the above-mentioned states as protection to the emigrants. Strategic points are to be fortified and garrisoned on the frontier. Dr. Gwin's son has applied for and will get an exclusive privilege for all the railroads in Sonora. The southerners are elate, and golden visions float before them. The last news from the States has caused a panic, and every mail is anxiously expected. The Yankee invasion they consider as certain, but bug to themselves the idea that France, Austria, and Belgium will not allow the United States to invade the empire. Napoleon has sent out a director of police to Maximilian, Cappa d'Istri, who lately returned from organizing the police of the Celestial Empire. Persecutions immediately began, *a la* French. The two first imprisonments have caused great sensation.

It seems that Colonel Henry Mejia, of the liberal party, lately went to Mexico under a safeguard to attend to some valuable property he had inherited, and while in the city invented a rifle, of which much was spoken. It is said to shoot accurately sixty times in a minute. Finding it difficult to construct it in Mexico, he decided going to the United States. By accident, in the same stage, there was Mr. Bay, ex-governor of Mexico, also of the liberal party. Two prominent liberals going to the States looked so much like conspiracy that on their arrival at Vera Cruz both were arrested and put in dungeons, their trunks broken open and papers seized. Unfortunately for Colonel Mejia, he had some despatches for the State Department at Washington, and also a model of his rifle, or, as the French called it, infernal machine. The despatches were opened and the rifle seized. As both these gentlemen had safe conducts, and really nothing could be proved against them, and as such imprisonments were in direct contravention of the provisional statute, they were released after eight days' close confinement. These arrests caused intense excitement, and the fears of an *emeute* induced, no doubt, their prompt release. The rottenness of the empire is beyond description. The lavish expenditures of Maximilian have no check, and nothing is done for the benefit of the country. If Maximilian lasts two years, the debt of Mexico would be increased \$300,000,000. The roads are impassable in the rainy season. There is no security anywhere, no order, no system. The French loudly complain. They say something is due to France, which means that they are tired of the Austrian, and want Mexico for themselves; that if they must fight the United States, the prize must be for them. As for fighting the Americans, 40,000 French can easily rout an army of 100,000 Yankees. French vanity can admit no equality, as they say one shot, then a charge, and the poor Americans will be spitted on French bayonets. The confederates seriously proclaim that they only can save the empire by the emigration of southerners, who will rally by thousands at the call of Gwin, and raise an impassable bulwark against American aggression. This is seriously believed and circulated by the French commander-in-chief.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 18, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 8th instant, with its several accompaniments referring to the plans of Mr. W. M. Gwin, formerly a senator of the United States, for colonizing the frontier states of the Mexican republic.

Thanking you for your attention in communicating the important information contained in those papers to this government, I have, in reply, to inform you that the subject of your note will receive the prompt consideration of this government, and that proper measures will be adopted in reference to the same.

I have the honor to renew to you, sir, the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c., Washington, D. C.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 195.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 13, 1865.

SIR: I give you a copy of three intercepted letters which have been submitted to this department; one letter, dated Mexico, 16th May, 1865, addressed by William M. Gwin (supposed to be junior) to his mother, followed by another letter on the same sheet, without date, in the handwriting of William M. Gwin, senior, well known to this department, addressed to his wife and daughter. The sheet referred to is directed to Mrs. William M. Gwin, No. 55 Boulevard Malesherbes, Paris, and is enclosed in another envelope addressed to Messrs. Van den Broek & Company, Rue de la Chaussee d'Antin, Paris. Another letter, also in the well-known handwriting of William M. Gwin, dated Mexico, 18th May, 1865, is addressed to "My Dear Colonel." It is contained in an open envelope and addressed to Colonel John Winthrop. That envelope is contained in another to Royal Phelps, esquire, No. 22 East Sixteenth street, New York, United States of America. A third letter, dated at Mexico on the 6th of May, 1865, addressed to honorable B. Wood, and signed Massey, enclosing a communication to the editor of the New York Daily News, dated at the city of Mexico, 19th of May, 1865, upon the subject of Mexican affairs.

1st. They show that Doctor William M. Gwin and his family are disloyal.

2d. That they are engaged in obtaining from Maximilian, titular Emperor in Mexico, grants of mineral lands in the states of that republic adjoining the United States, and that Doctor Gwin is to be the chief directing agent in working these mines.

3d. That a large accession of capitalists and emigrants into those states from the rebels against the United States is expected.

4th. That they assure the said Maximilian and the Emperor of France that their contemplated proceedings tend to promote Maximilian's success.

5th. That they regard their enterprise as injurious to the United States.

6th. That they claim to have the patronage of the Emperor of the French, with assurances of military aid.

I have to request that you submit a copy of this intercepted correspondence to Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys. You will frankly inform him that the sympathies of the American people are already considerably excited in favor of the republic of Mexico, and that they are disposed to regard with impatience the continued intervention of France in that country. That any favor shown to the proceedings of Doctor Gwin by the titular Emperor of Mexico or by the imperial government of France, with reference to those agents, will tend greatly to increase the popular impatience, because it will be regarded, perhaps justly, as importing dangers to, or at least as a menace against the United States.

It is proper also that Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys shall be informed that if we could believe that the statements thus made by these speculators are true, it would necessarily seem to the President that the Emperor of France was proceeding in his war against Mexico in a course materially differing from that of neutrality in regard to the political institutions of that country, of which he assured the United States when the war was begun. The President, on the contrary, confidently and sincerely expects, in some form, an assurance that all the pretences of Doctor Gwin and his associates are destitute of any sanction from the Emperor of France. I do not enlarge on this subject, because the French government need not be informed of the susceptibilities of the people of the United States in regard to Mexico. Nor can it be necessary to say, that after having expelled insurgents from our own borders, the United States government could not look with satisfaction upon their re-organization as martial or political enemies on the opposite banks of the Rio Grande.

I regret to be obliged to offer such frequent suggestions of prudence for the consideration of the Emperor's government, but the course of events creates the necessity, and good faith prescribes the duty.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *Sec., Sec., Sec.*

[NOTE.—For intercepted letters see annexes to Mr. Romero's letter of July 8, 1865, to Mr. Seward.]

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 157.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Paris, August 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of a letter addressed by me to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs, on the 1st instant, and of his reply, in reference to the schemes of Dr. Gwin and his associates in Mexico, referred to in your despatch No. 195.

The sensitiveness betrayed by his excellency upon this subject has determined me to defer any rejoinder until I have had time to hear from you. For that period, at least, silence will be the most effective rejoinder.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, *August 1, 1865.*

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, has the honor to transmit to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs copies of four letters which have been recently submitted to the State Department at Washington.

The first, dated Mexico, May 16, 1865, is addressed by William M. Gwin, the son of Doctor and Mrs. William M. Gwin, followed by the second from Doctor Gwin himself, on the same sheet, without date, addressed to his wife and daughter in Paris. The third, in the well-known handwriting of the doctor, dated Mexico, May 18, 1865, is addressed to "My Dear Colonel," and was contained in an envelope addressed to "Colonel John Winthrop." The fourth, signed "Massey," and dated Mexico, 18th May, 1865, was addressed "To the Hon. B. Wood," (now a prisoner of state for alleged treasonable practices,) enclosing a communication to the editor of the New York Daily News, dated at the city of Mexico, 19th May, 1865, upon the subject of Mexican affairs.

By these letters it appears—

First. That Doctor William M. Gwin and family, though citizens of the United States, are disloyal to its government.

Second. That they are engaged in obtaining from Maximilian, titular Emperor of Mexico, grants of mineral lands in the states of that republic, adjoining the United States, and that Doctor Gwin is to be the chief directing agent in working these mines.

Third. That a large accession of capitalists and emigrants into these States from parties in rebellion against the United States is expected.

Fourth. That they assure the said Maximilian and the Emperor of France that their contemplated proceedings will tend at once to promote the projects of Maximilian in Mexico, and inure to the injury of the United States.

Fifth. That they claim to have the patronage of the Emperor of the French, with assurances of military aid.

In submitting to his excellency, the minister of foreign affairs, copies of this correspondence, the undersigned is instructed frankly to state that the sympathies of the American people for the republicans of Mexico are very lively, and that they are disposed to regard with impatience the continued intervention of France in that country; that any favor shown to the speculations of Dr. Gwin by the titular Emperor of Mexico, or by the imperial government of France, will tend greatly to increase the popular impatience, because it will be regarded, perhaps justly, as importing danger, or, at least, a menace to the United States.

Could the government of the undersigned be brought to believe that the state of these speculations were worthy of entire confidence, the President of the United States would be forced to the conclusion that his Majesty the Emperor of France was pursuing towards Mexico a policy materially at variance with that of neutrality in regard to the political institutions of the country, which he avowed at the commencement of his war with that republic. The President, on the contrary, confidently and sincerely expects in some form an assurance that all the pretences of Dr. Gwin, and of his associates, are destitute of any sanction from the Emperor of France.

It is unnecessary for the undersigned to say, that after having expelled insurgents from our own borders, the United States could not look with satisfaction upon their reorganization as martial or political enemies on the opposite banks of the Rio Grande.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs assurances of the distinguished consideration with which he has the honor to be his excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

His Excellency DROUYN DE L'HUYS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys to Mr Bigelow.

[Translation.]

PARIS, August 7, 1865.

SIR: I have received the letter which you have done me the honor to address to me, dated August 1st. In it you mention to me some plans for the colonization of Mexico, deemed to have been conceived with intentions hostile to the government of the United States, and you desire to know if it is true that the Emperor Maximilian and France lend their support to these undertakings.

We shall always be ready, sir, to respond frankly to demands for explanations coming to us from an allied nation when they are inspired by a conciliatory spirit, presented in an amicable tone, and based upon authentic documents or positive facts. But I must add that the Emperor is resolved to reject all interpolations which may come to us in a comminatory tone about vague allegations, and based upon documents of a dubious character.

You will understand, sir, that it is not for me to enlighten you concerning the speculations of such or such person who has emigrated to Mexico; but what I know of the intentions of the Mexican government enables me to say to you that it proposes to let the emigrants from the southern States enter upon its territory only individually, and without arms. They will receive such help as humanity requires, but will be immediately dispersed through the provinces of the empire, and bound to abstain, in their conduct, from everything which might awaken the just susceptibility of neighboring nations. I have, moreover, reason to believe that these dispositions of Emperor Maximilian are by this time as well known to the cabinet at Washington as they are to us.

As for France, she has on several occasions, sir, and with entire frankness, stated her resolution to observe in all the internal questions which may agitate or divide the Union, an impartial and scrupulous neutrality. We have nothing to offer as a pledge of our intentions but our word, but we deem the word of France a guarantee which will satisfy any friendly power, as we ourselves are satisfied with the word pledged to us by the federal government, to remain strictly neutral with regard to affairs in Mexico. I take pleasure in recalling here, sir, the assurances which I had the satisfaction to receive from you on that subject, especially in your letter of the 12th of June last, and which I have stated in my answer, dated the 17th.

The Emperor trusts with confidence to the sentiments of which you were the interpreter, and although certain recent manifestations may seem difficult to reconcile with these declarations, his Majesty does not hesitate to rely always on the honorableness of the American people.

Accept assurances of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be, sir, your very humble and very obedient servant,

DROUYN DE L'HUYS.

Monsieur BIGELOW,
Minister of the United States, &c., &c., &c., Paris.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 231.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 24, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of August 10, No. 157, has been received. It is accompanied by a correspondence between yourself and Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys in relation to the alleged schemes of Dr. Gwin and his associates in Mexico.

It gives me pleasure to say, that information which was received from that country while that correspondence was going on, and which information seems to be authentic, induces the belief that the speculations referred to have altogether failed. I observe with still more pleasure that Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys, in the communication which he addressed to you of the 7th of August, authorized us to expect that those schemes and speculations, so far as they were hostile to the United States, would be disapproved by the authorities acting in Mexico under the direction of, or in co-operation with, the Emperor of France. It is perceived with regret, that either in substance or in manner the representation which you addressed to Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys, and which elicited his communication, before referred to, in reply, was regarded by Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys as exceptionable. It becomes proper for me, under these circumstances, to say that your representation was made in conformity with instructions given you by this department, and that on reviewing these instructions we are not able to discover any ground for criticism. They were given under the belief that a seasonable attention to the reports and rumors that were in circulation in regard to schemes of Dr. Gwin and other rebel emissaries in Mexico was necessary to prevent difficulties and to allay apprehensions, the indulgence of which was prejudicial to a good understanding between the United States and France. The President is gratified with the renewed assurance which Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys has given us of the Emperor's resolution to observe an impartial and scrupulous neutrality upon all internal questions which may agitate or divide the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c., *Paris.*

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, October 5, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to enclose to you, for the information of the government of the United States, a copy, in English, of the so-called law which on the 5th of September last was issued at Chapultepec by the ex-Archduke of Austria, Fernando Maximilian, so-called Emperor of Mexico, in which, under pretext, apparently, of inviting foreign emigration to Mexico, he has adopted a plan which has for its purpose to call to that republic the disaffected citizens of the United States who participated in the late rebellion, and are not disposed to acknowledge the authority of this government, nor to accept the consequences of the war, by admitting them, with their prejudices and their peculiar system of labor, already well tried in the southern part of the United States.

According to the information I have received, founded on facts, and which I have communicated to your department, the Emperor of the French, and his agent in Mexico, considering that, in the country there were not elements suffi-

cient to sustain them, have taken means to call to it all persons they supposed animated by any hostility against the United States. The arrangements made with ex-Senator Gwin, of California, had that object; but as that individual was recognized as a declared enemy of the United States, on the close of the civil war here, it was thought not advisable to irritate this country by carrying out the plans which had been agreed upon with him.

In place of them, there has been another combination, which, under a different form, it is hoped may produce the like results. For this new plan they have gone to the extreme of practically re-establishing in fact, in Mexico, the odious institution of slavery. The so-called law of the ex-Archduke of Austria goes accompanied by a regulation signed by the same Maximilian, of which I also enclose a copy in English. Article 1st of his regulation, to cover appearances, declares that, "according to the laws of the empire, all men of color are free from the mere fact of stepping on Mexican territory;" but those following establish a slavery so much the more odious, because it is not restricted to color or determination of caste.

The *working-men*—name given to the slaves—will make, according to such regulations, a contract with their master, called *patron*, by which he will bind himself to feed, clothe, and lodge them, and support them in sickness, and pay them a sum of money in conformity with the conditions agreed upon between themselves. The fourth part of the sum agreed upon will be lost to the working-man almost, because he cannot dispose of it nor of the interest while his contract lasts, according to terms of articles 13 and 14. "The working-man will engage at the same time with his patron to do the work to which he may be assigned for the term of five years at least, and ten years at most." "The patron will engage to maintain the children of his working-men." This slavery is hereditary, because, according to article 3 of the regulation, "in case of the death of the father, (working-man,) the patron shall consider himself tutor of the children, and they shall continue in his service until majority on the same conditions as was the father." The heirs of the patron will hold, in their turn, these working-men in conformity with article 5. To complete the odious practices of the holders of slaves, the regulation referred to contains (article 6) an article against fugitive slaves, by which, "in case of desertion, the workman, when caught, shall be assigned, without wages at all, to the public works, until his patron comes to reclaim him." To consummate this work of iniquity, article 15 provides that in case of death "ab intestate," or without heirs, the peculium of the working-man shall pass into the control of the public treasury.

It is really extraordinary, and almost incomprehensible, that when slavery has received a death-blow in the only country that could revive it, and when it has been shown by facts, that its existence is a social, moral, and political evil, there can be in the world a usurper who, without having established his authority in the country he tries to dominate over, should attempt to re-establish that odious system for the purpose of strengthening himself, and merely changing the name of it with a view of deluding the world.

As this system of labor might be taken for what in Mexico is called peonage, and as that may be considered here as an institution equivalent to slavery, I think it expedient to inform you, that on some estates in the *tierras calientes*, to the south of Mexico, there has in fact been, through the abuses of the proprietors and the influence they enjoyed, something that might be compared in its practical effects with what the ex-Archduke of Austria wishes now to establish in his aforesaid decree; but such abuses, besides being restricted to a very narrow district, were never sanctioned by the Mexican laws, and the national government of that republic has taken especial care to correct them and root them out. It was reserved for the ex-Archduke of Austria to sanction such an abusive practice by a law which, if it had any force, should be executed throughout the whole extent of the Mexican territory.

Before concluding this note, I think it proper to remit to you copy of the speech which was delivered in Mexico on the said 16th September by the said ex-Archduke of Austria, Fernando Maximilian, in which he expresses what he calls his irrevocable determination not to leave Mexico upon any consideration, whatever may be the circumstances. This is another proof that the Emperor of the French is very far from desisting from his outrageous attempt to force the people of Mexico into acceptance of the yoke of a European monarchy.

It is satisfactory to me to avail of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

DECREE.

We, Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, in consideration of the sparseness of the population in the Mexican territory, in proportion to its extent, desiring to give to immigrants all possible security for property and liberty, in order that they may become good Mexicans, sincerely attached to their new country, and having heard the opinion of our board of colonization, do decree as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Mexico is open to immigration from all nations.

ART. 2. Immigration agents shall be appointed, who will be paid by the government, and whose duty it shall be to protect the arrival of immigrants, and instal them on the lands assigned them, and assist them in every possible manner in establishing themselves. These agents will receive the orders of an imperial commission of immigration, specially appointed by us, and to whom, through our minister of improvement. (Fomento,) all communications relating to immigration shall be addressed.

ART. 3. Each immigrant shall receive a duly executed title incommutable of landed estate, and a certificate that it is free of mortgages.

ART. 4. Such property shall be free from taxes for the first year, and also from duties on transfers of property, but only on the first sale.

ART. 5. The immigrants may be naturalized as soon as they shall have established themselves as settlers.

ART. 6. Immigrants who may desire to bring laborers with them, or induce them to come in considerable numbers, of any race whatever, are authorized to do so, but those laborers will be subject to special protective regulations.

ART. 7. The effects of immigrants, their working and brood animals, seeds, agricultural implements, machines, and working tools, will enter free of custom-house and transit duties.

ART. 8. Immigrants are exempted from military service for five years, but they will form a stationary militia, for the purpose of protecting their property and neighborhoods.

ART. 9. Liberty in the exercise of their respective forms of religious worship is secured to immigrants by the organic law of the empire.

ART. 10. Each of our ministers is charged with carrying out such parts of this decree as relate to his department.

Given at Chapultepec on the 5th day of September, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN.

By the Emperor:

The Minister of Improvement, FOMENTO.

MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA,

Sub-Secretary, in the absence of the Minister of Improvement.

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1865.

A true copy:

F. D. MACIN,

Second Secretary of the Legation.

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.]

REGULATIONS.

Under article 6th of the foregoing decree we ordain as follows:

1. Under the laws of the empire all persons of color are free by the mere act of their touching Mexican territory.

2. They shall make contracts with the employer who has engaged or may engage them, by which such employer shall bind himself to feed, clothe, and lodge them, and give them

medical attendance, and also pay them a sum of money according to whatever agreements they may enter into with them. Moreover, he shall deposit in the savings bank herein mentioned, for the benefit of the laborer, a sum equivalent to one-fourth of his wages. The laborer shall, on his part, obligate himself to his employer to perform the labor for which he is employed for a term of not less than five nor more than ten years.

3. The employer shall bind himself to support the children of his laborers. In the event of the father's death, the employer will be regarded as the guardian of the children, and they will remain in his service until they become of age, on the same terms as those agreed on by their father.

4. Each laborer shall receive a book, certified by the local authority, in which book his description, the statement of his place of labor, and a certificate of his life and habits, will be entered. In case of a change of employer, the consent of the former employer shall be entered in this book.

5. In case of the death of the employer, his heirs, or whoever may acquire his estate, shall be bound to the laborer in the same manner in which such employer was, and the laborer, on his part, shall be bound towards such new proprietor on the same terms as in his former contract.

6. In case of desertion the laborer, when arrested, shall be placed, without pay, on public works, until his employer presents himself to claim him.

7. In case of any injustice of the employer towards the laborers, he shall be brought before a magistrate.

8. Special police commissioners will watch over the execution of these regulations, and officially prosecute all violators thereof.

9. A savings bank will be established by the government for the following objects:

10. The employers shall deposit in said bank every month, for the benefit of the laborers, a sum equivalent to one-fourth of the wages which each is entitled to under his contract of employment.

11. The laborers can deposit, in addition, in the savings bank, in money, such sums as they may desire.

12. These deposits shall bear interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

13. At the end of his engagement, and on presentation of his book, the laborer shall receive the entire amount of his savings.

14. If, at the end of his engagement, the laborer wishes to leave his money in the savings bank, he can then receive the interest accrued; or if he wishes to leave this also, it will be added to his capital, and also draw interest.

15. In case a laborer should die intestate, or without heirs, his property shall pass to the treasury of the government.

Given at Chapultepec on the 5th day of September, 1855.

MAXIMILIAN.

By the Emperor:
The Minister of Improvement, FOMENTO.

MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA,
Sub-Secretary in the absence of the Minister of Improvement.

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1865.

A true copy:

F. D. MACIN,
Second Secretary of the Legation.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

On the anniversary of the independence of Mexico, the 16th of September, the so-called Emperor, Maximilian, delivered the following speech:

GENTLEMEN: This is a family festival, a festival of brothers, which unites every one of us this day under the folds of our glorious banner; the day upon which our immortal Hidalgo, elevating with unprecedented valor his patriotic voice, united the heroes of a new Mexican era, will be forever to the sons of our country a day of rejoicing, because we then celebrate the inauguration of our nationality; because every good Mexican must renew by an oath the promise to live for the greatness, the independence, and the integrity of his country, and show himself always ready to defend it with all his heart and soul. The words of that oath are the first uttered by a good Mexican. I solemnly repeat them now. My heart, my soul, my labor, and my lawful efforts belong to you and to our beloved country. No influence in this world can make me waver in my duty; every drop of my blood is Mexican now; and if God sends fresh dangers to threaten our country, you will see me fight in your ranks for its independence and integrity. I am willing to die at the foot of our glorious banner, because no human power can wrest from me the trust with which you have endowed me. What I say must be said by every good Mexican; it must efface past rancors; it must

bury party hatred. Every one must live for the good of our beloved country. Thus united, and following the path of duty, we will be strong, and the principles which form the basis of our task will infallibly triumph.

A true copy:

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1865.

F. D. MACIN,
Second Secretary of the Legation.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, December 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 5th of October last, with their several important accompaniments, which you were pleased to communicate for the information of the government of the United States.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that it has already received the consideration of this department, and that measures have been adopted which are deemed proper to meet the exigencies which it presents.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,

Washington, D. C.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, October 20, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY: In addition to the intelligence I communicated to you in my note of 5th instant, relative to the plan adopted by French agents in Mexico, for the purpose of uniting in that republic the discontented citizens of the United States, who are not disposed to acknowledge the authority of this government, nor accept the consequences of the late civil war, I have now the honor to send you various extracts from the "Times," a paper published in English in the city of Mexico, in which you will see a list of prominent persons from the United States of the south, lately in insurrection against the federal government, and are now in the city of Mexico, and other details that are not without interest.

It seems also that the ex-archduke of Austria, Fernando Maximilian, now titular Emperor of Mexico, already throwing aside all dissimulation, has made public his real plans, by appointing as agents of colonization, Mr. Sterling Price, of Missouri, Mr. Isham Harris, of Tennessee, Mr. John Perkins, of Louisiana, and Mr. Wm. F. Hardeman and Mr. Roberts, of Texas.

Messrs Price and Perkins have gone to the Gulf side, and Messrs. Hardeman and Roberts to the Pacific, in discharge of their trusts.

It seems Mr. M. F. Maury, ex-lieutenant in the navy of the United States, and afterwards agent in Europe for the insurgent States, is the person who directs this movement for emigration on foot. For this purpose he has been declared a subject of the usurper, and as it seems from the communication addressed to him on the 23d September aforesaid, of which I send copy, in which is granted to him the right to hold the offices reserved to the natural-born in the national

territory, he has been appointed in addition, by the usurper, honorary councillor of state.

These facts indicate clearly what are the objects and the tendencies of the agents in Mexico, and I doubt not the government of the United States will attribute to them the importance they deserve.

I avail of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.—From the Mexico Times, September 23.]

COLONIZATION OF PUBLIC LANDS.

It is our pleasing task to state that the following gentlemen have been appointed agents of colonization by the imperial government: Señors Sterling Price, late of Missouri; Isham Harris, late of Tennessee; John Perkins, late of Louisiana; W. T. Hardeman and Roberts, late of Texas.

Señors Price, Harris, and Perkins left this city on the 19th instant for Cordova and the region of country bordering on the "tierra caliente." Señors Hardeman and Roberts left on the 20th instant for Tepic and the country bordering on the Pacific. Their duties are to examine the lands offered for colonization purposes, and to make their report to the proper authorities as soon as practicable. We look forward with the greatest interest to the report of these agents. They are men of the highest respectability. Their statements can be implicitly relied on. We beg our friends who have come to Mexico with the intention of seeking homes to wait with patience for the result of the labors of these gentlemen. We assure them that the government will act in the most liberal manner, and that in a very short time they will be amply repaid for the delays and privations to which many are at present subjected.

As Abraham said to Lot, the "whole land is before you where to choose," therefore be not impatient; God in his providence has so arranged it that you all will have good and comfortable homes in the dominions of the best of Emperors. In a few weeks the report of the agents of colonization will be received, and good lands in healthy districts will be appropriated to every one who wishes to become a citizen of Mexico.

[Enclosure No. 2.—From the Mexico Times, September 30.]

American arrivals in Mexico.

Names.	When arrived.	Residence.
Sterling Price	August 9, 1865	Missouri.
J. B. Magruder	August 5, 1865	Virginia.
Isham G. Harris	August 9, 1865	Tennessee.
E. Clark	September 3, 1865	Texas.
Trusten Polk	August 9, 1865	Missouri.
Jo. O. Shelby	September 3, 1865	Do.
H. W. Allen	July 28, 1865	Louisiana.
H. Denis	do	Do.
W. A. Broadwell	September 7, 1865	Do.
M. F. Maury	June 1, 1865	Virginia.
J. Perkins	August 9, 1865	Louisiana.
Heber Price	do	Missouri.
H. M. Duncan	do	Do.
J. P. Tucker	do	Do.
W. T. Hardeman	August 20, 1865	Texas.
H. P. Bee	do	Do.
M. W. Sims	July 22, 1865	Do.
George Young	August 20, 1865	Missouri.
R. J. Laurence	August 29, 1865	Do.
C. G. Jones	do	Do.
J. N. Edwards	do	Do.

Names.	When arrived.	Residence.
D. C. Cage	August 9, 1865	Louisiana.
W. Yowell	September 3, 1865	Missouri.
George Hall	do	Do.
F. M. Kephart	do	Do.
R. A. Collins	do	Do.
Y. H. Blackwell	do	Do.
J. Terry	do	Do.
J. Moreland	do	Do.
T. Boswell	do	Do.
W. J. McArthur	August 20, 1865	Do.
J. C. Wood	do	Do.
Ras. Woods	August 25, 1865	Do.
M. M. Langborne	do	Do.
F. T. Mitchell and family	July, 1865	Do.
Señor Wood and wife	do	Do.
D. W. Bouldin	August 20, 1865	Do.
S. Hunkel	August 9, 1865	Do.
J. Beard	do	Do.
W. Skidmore	do	Do.
H. Thomas	do	Do.
C. M. Wilcox	July 16, 1865	Tennessee.
R. Joseph	September 3, 1865	Missouri.
T. Weston	September 12, 1865	Louisiana.
H. B. Acton	September 3, 1865	Missouri.
J. Donahoe	do	California.
I. Reed	In San Luis Potosi	Virginia.
T. J. Divine	In Monterey	Texas.
J. Brown	September 3, 1865	North Carolina.
Señor Conrow	In Monterey	Missouri.
Señor O'Bannon	In San Luis Potosi	South Carolina.
Señor Kimmel	August 9, 1865	Missouri.
D. Leadbetter	do	Alabama.
O. G. Jones	do	Louisiana.
S. Gregory	do	Texas.
Señor Thompson	do	Do.
H. T. Chiles and family	September 11, 1865	Missouri.
M. L. Kritser	do	Do.
J. S. Kritser	do	Do.
T. Whalen	do	California.
J. M. Meador	do	Missouri.
T. Collins	do	Do.
W. Fell	do	Do.
B. F. Jones	do	Do.
J. B. Kirtley	September 3, 1865	Do.
J. D. Conner	do	Do.
G. M. Winship	do	Do.
J. Ward	do	Do.
E. Lilly	do	Texas.
N. T. Fincher	September 11, 1865	Do.
H. McNamee	September 3, 1865	California.
R. J. Flynn	do	Louisiana.
R. H. S. Thompson	August 6, 1865	Do.
Señor Bartlett	do	Mississippi.
G. Mitchell	August 9, 1865	Missouri.
J. N. Lane	do	Do.
B. H. Lyon	August 20, 1865	Kentucky.
J. J. Gaenslen	do	Virginia.
T. C. Hindman	September 10, 1865	Arkansas.
J. H. Brown and family	September 12, 1865	Texas.
J. Brown	do	Do.
P. M. Brown	do	Do.
H. C. Cook	do	Do.
Richard Taylor	August 25, 1865	Kentucky.

Names.	When arrived.	Residence.
O. M. Watkins	August 8, 1865.....	Louisiana.
T. C. Reynolds.....	do.....	Missouri.
A. Ridley.....	do.....	California.
E. Kirby Smith.....	July 17, in Cuba.....	Florida.
J. N. Martin.....	July 25, in Cuba.....	Missouri.
E. G. Walker.....	do.....	Do.
T. O. Moore.....	July 25, in Havana.....	Louisiana.
W. Preston.....	July 25, in Canada.....	Kentucky.
Señor Roberts.....	August 25, 1865.....	Texas.
Alfred Mordecai.....	July 18, 1865.....	North Carolina.
Frank Moore.....	July —, 1865.....	Alabama.
A. W. Terrell.....	July 17, 1865.....	Texas.
George Flourney.....	do.....	Do.
Señor Loughnemare.....	do.....	Do.

MORE SOLDIERS FROM FRANCE.

Troops are arriving in our city daily direct from France. On yesterday a battalion of Turcos marched through the streets, exciting the admiration of all. They are a fine body of men, well drilled, and inured to every hardship and to all climates. We noticed they were commanded by native officers.

[Enclosure No. 3.—From the Mexico Times, September 30.]

GENERAL PRICE'S EXILE.—HIS EMPLOYMENT AS AN EMIGRANT LAND COMMISSIONER.

The Noticioso, of Vera Cruz, extracts the following from the New York papers:

The Brownsville correspondent of the New York Herald writes that from a conversation that took place between him and a confederate officer he learned that General Price, of Missouri, had taken service under Maximilian, who authorized the general to recruit a cavalry force of thirty thousand men from the late confederate army. He also learned that several other prominent rebels had received kind favors from the Emperor, whose intentions are to collect a force of at least one hundred thousand rebels in less than one year in order to face General Sheridan on the Rio Grande.—*La Sociedad*.

[Enclosure No. 4.—From the Mexico Times, September 30.]

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRANTS INVITED.

Open wide the doors to immigration. Encourage by the most liberal policy good citizens from Europe and the United States to come and settle upon the wild and uncultivated lands, and soon there will be seen an industrious and thrifty population, who will fully appreciate their new homes, and be ready at all times to defend them against domestic or foreign foes.

MEXICO, September 30, 1865.

His Majesty the Emperor, being desirous of giving a signal proof of his estimation of the distinguished merit and eminent qualifications which adorn Don Mathew Fontaine Maury, and acceding to his application, has been pleased to concede to him papers of naturalization as a Mexican, with all the enjoyments and privileges which appertain to Mexican subjects, including the right of holding the public positions and employments reserved to those born on the territory of the empire.

The chief of the bureau of accountability in charge of the chancellorship,

IGNACIO M. DE CASTILLO.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES,
New York, November 4, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY: In confirmation of what I had the honor of communicating to you in my note of the 20th of October last, relative to the object of the colonization plan adopted by the usurper in Mexico, I now have the honor of transmitting to you a copy, in English, of the so-called five decrees of the ex-Archduke of Austria, promulgated in September previous, in which he names Mr. M. F. Maury, a declared enemy of the United States, as honorary counsellor of state, and imperial commissioner of colonization, and Mr. J. B. Magruder, also a declared enemy of this government, as chief of the colonization land office.

In the third of said decrees you will observe, in confirmation of what I communicated to your department, about the nature of the colonization to be made in Mexico, that Mr. Maury has been authorized to establish agencies in the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Texas, Missouri, and California, and in the cities of Mobile and New Orleans, which plainly shows they only think to get men from the south, and precisely from those States where they suppose there are most malcontents against this government. It is a very significant fact that not one single agency is established in the northern States, which were faithful to the Union of this government during the last civil war.

I also enclose a copy in English of the circular issued on the 5th of October, by Mr. Maury, as imperial commissioner of colonization.

I embrace this occasion of renewing to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington City, D. C.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

In consideration of his well-known capacity, I hereby nominate our honorary counsellor of state, M. F. Maury, imperial commissioner of colonization.

The minister of the interior is charged with the execution of this decree.

MAXIMILIAN.

For the Emperor:

LOUIS ROBLES PEZUELA,
Minister of the Interior.

MEXICO, *September 27, 1865.*

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

Our honorary counsellor of state, M. F. Maury, is authorized to establish the office of imperial commissioner of colonization at No. 13 San Juan de Letran street, and our minister of the interior is authorized to rent the said property at a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars per month.

MAXIMILIAN.

To the MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

For the Emperor:

MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA,
Sub-Secretary.

CHEPULTEPEC, *September 24, 1865.*

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

Our honorary counsellor of state, M. F. Maury, is authorized to appoint seven agents of colonization in the following States and cities of the United States: Virginia, North and South

Carolina, Texas, Missouri, California, New Orleans, Mobile. Said agents shall receive one hundred dollars per month as compensation, and the further sum of three hundred dollars per annum for necessary expenses.

MAXIMILIAN.

To the MINISTER OF INTERIOR.

For the Emperor:

LUIS ROBLES PEZUELA.

Minister of the Interior.

CHEPULTEPEC, September 24, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

The following sums are appropriated for the office of Señor Maury, honorary counsellor of state and imperial commissioner of colonization: Office furniture, \$150; expenses of office, annually, \$500; for one clerk, annually, \$1,200; for one private messenger, annually, \$300. Our minister of the interior is charged with the execution of this order.

MAXIMILIAN.

To the MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

For the Emperor:

LUIS ROBLES PEZUELA.

Minister of the Interior.

CHEPULTEPEC, September 27, 1865.

The following is the decree of Maximilian appointing the rebel General Magruder as chief of the land office of colonization:

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

Desiring to forward the object of immigration to Mexico, a land office of colonization shall be established in this capital, and J. B. Magruder is hereby appointed its chief. The following sums are appropriated for the expenses of this office: For salary of J. B. Magruder, annually, \$3,000; for office furniture, annually, \$150; for rent of office, monthly, \$100; for office expenses, annually, \$500; for pay of messenger, annually, \$300.

Señor Magruder will report to us the number of engineers and surveyors which will be necessary to carry into effect the objects of his appointment, and also the amount which he recommends to be appropriated for their salary.

The minister of the interior is charged with the execution of this order.

MAXIMILIAN.

To the MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

For the Emperor:

LUIS ROBLES PEZUELA.

Minister of the Interior.

CHEPULTEPEC, September 27, 1865.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

The Mexico Times of October 14 prints the following circular:

No. 13 CALLE DE SAN JUAN LETRAN,
Mexico, October 5, 1865.

To the land-owners of Mexico:

All who desire to encourage immigration, and have lands to sell, are hereby informed that if they will make known to this office the terms and conditions upon which they are willing to dispose of them to actual settlers, this office, if the terms are favorable, will, without fee or charge of any sort, assist, through its agents abroad and by advertisements, such owners in bringing their lands to the notice of the immigrant.

It will also, in the case of lands which are offered upon terms that are sufficiently inviting to immigrants, cause them to be examined at the public expense. If found suitable as to health, quality, and location, it will have them surveyed and mapped, also without any expense to the owners, furnishing each with a copy of the survey of his own land.

The terms upon which offers are made will be regarded as confidential, if so desired; and in all cases the colonists and land-owners will be left free to make and consummate their own bargains according to the offers made through this office. In surveying and bringing these lands into market, preference will be given to those which, on account of terms, situation, and quality, offer the greatest inducements to immigrants.

M. F. MAURY,

Imperial Commissioner of Colonization.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, December 12, 1865.

SIR : In confirmation of what I communicated to you in my notes of the 8th of July, 5th and 20th October, and 4th of November of the present year, relative to the efforts the French government is making, through its agent, Maximilian, to carry into Mexico the discontented citizens of the United States, and those who took a part in the late rebellion against this government, to which they are not disposed to submit, even after the end of the war, to organize them there and suffer them to give more trouble to their country, I have the honor to send you a copy, in English, of a letter written from Cordova, the 12th of November last, by Mr. Isham G. Harris, ex-governor of Tennessee, general in the confederate army, and a prominent person among the insurgents. The letter is directed to a Mr. George W. Adair, Atlanta, State of Georgia, and was published in the "New Era," of that city. It contains details and information positively confirming what I mentioned in my former notes respecting this important business.

I take this occasion to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure.]

CORDOVA, MEXICO, *November 12, 1865.*

I lingered near Grenada, endeavoring to arrange some business matters, until the 14th of May. In the mean time I had a skiff built, and on the morning of the 14th I embarked, some six miles east of Greenwood, and set sail for the trans-Mississippi, the party consisting of General Lyon, of Kentucky, myself, and our two servants. We navigated the Backwater for one hundred and twenty miles, and on the morning of the 21st, just before daylight, I crossed over to the Arkansas shore. I crossed at the foot of Island No. 75, just below the mouth of the Arkansas river; proceeded westward as far as the Backwater was navigable, and on the morning of the 22d I left my frail bark, bought horses, mounted the party, and set out for Shreveport, where I hoped to find an army resolved on continued resistance to federal rule; but before reaching Shreveport I learned that the army of the trans-Mississippi had disbanded and scattered to the winds, and all the officers of rank had gone to Mexico.

Having no further motive to visit Shreveport, I turned my course to Red River county, Texas, where a portion of my negroes and plantation stock had been carried some two years ago. I reached there on the 7th of June; was taken sick and confined to my bed a week. On the 15th of June, with my baggage, cooking utensils, and provisions on a pack-mule, I set out for San Antonio, where I expected to overtake a large number of confederate civil and military officers en route for Mexico. Reached San Antonio on the 26th, and learned that all confederates had left for Mexico some ten days or two weeks before. On the morning of the 27th I started to Eagle Pass, on the Rio Grande, the federals holding all the crossings of that river below Eagle Pass. I reached Eagle Pass on the evening of the 30th, and immediately crossed over to the Mexican town of Piedras Negras. On the morning of the 1st of July set out for Monterey; arrived there on the evening of the 9th. Here I overtook General Price and ex-Governor Polk, of Missouri, who were starting to the city of Mexico next morning, with an escort of twenty armed Missourians. As I was going to the city, and the trip was a long and dangerous one to make alone, I decided to go with them, though I was literally worn out with over one thousand five hundred miles of continuous horseback travel. I exchanged my saddle-horse, saddles, &c., for an ambulance, put my two mules to it, gave the whip and lines to Ran, bought me a Spanish grammar and dictionary, took the back seat, and commenced the study of the Spanish language. We made the trip at easy stages of about twenty-five miles per day, and reached the city of Mexico on the evening of the 9th of August. The trip was one of the longest, most laborious, and hazardous of my life, but I will not tax your time or mine with its details, many of which would interest you deeply if I were there to give them to you.

Our reception upon the part of the government officials here was all that we could have

expected or desired. We were invited to an audience with the Emperor at the palace, the far-famed halls of the Montezumas. At the time fixed we called, and were most kindly received by the Emperor and Empress, and were assured of their sympathy in our misfortunes, and of their earnest hope that we might find homes for ourselves and friends in Mexico. The Empress was our interpreter in the interview. She speaks fluently the French, Spanish, German, and English languages, and is in all respects a great woman.

We overtook at the city of Mexico General Magruder, Commodore Maury, Governor Allen, of Louisiana; Judge Perkins, of Louisiana; Governor Reynolds, of Missouri, and Governor Murrah and Governor Clark, of Texas, with many other and lesser confederate lights. On the 5th of September the Emperor published a decree opening all of Mexico to immigration and colonization, and Commodore Maury and myself and other confederates were requested to prepare regulations to accompany the decree, which we did, and which were approved by the Emperor on the 27th. The decree and regulations offer very liberal inducements to immigration, among which are a donation of public lands at the rate of six hundred and forty acres to each head of a family, and three hundred and twenty acres to each single man; a free passage to the country to such as are not able to pay their own expenses, freedom from taxation for one year and from military duty for five years, religious toleration, &c., &c.

Commodore Maury has been appointed imperial commissioner of colonization, which makes his authority in the matter of colonization second only to that of the Emperor. General Price, Judge Perkins, and myself were appointed agents of colonization, and requested to examine the lands lying upon and near the line of railroad from the city of Mexico to Vera Cruz, for the purpose of determining whether they were suited to American colonization. We are engaged at this time in the discharge of that duty. We find in the vicinity of this place the most beautiful, and, all things considered, the best agricultural country that I have ever seen. The climate is delightful—never hot, never cold, always temperate, always pleasant. The soil richer and more productive than the best of the prairie lands of Mississippi in the Okolona country, yielding large crops of corn, barley, rice, tobacco, sugar-cane, and coffee, with all the fruits of the tropics, and the best that you ever tasted. You can raise two crops of corn on the same land each year. The usual mode of farming here is a crop of corn and a crop of tobacco on the same land, the corn ripening always before time to plant tobacco; and ten miles from here, in the direction of the coast, you strike as good a cotton country as can be found in the world.

The most profitable crop here is coffee; you plant about six or seven hundred trees to the acre; it begins to bear at two and produces a full crop at four years old. You can always calculate safely on an average of two pounds to the tree, though there are instances of a tree's bearing as high as twenty-eight pounds. The tree is hardy, and will live fifty or one hundred years. It costs about as much labor to cultivate and put into market an acre of coffee as it does an acre of corn in Georgia.

The coffee plantation, with its shade of bananas, figs, oranges, mangoes, and zapotes, with the walks fringed with pineapple, all in full bearing, is the richest and most beautiful spectacle upon which my eyes have ever rested. I have selected six hundred and forty acres about ten miles from here, where I propose to surround myself with the coffee plantation, in the midst of which I will nestle down, constantly inhaling the odors of the rich tropical fruits, and gaudy-colored and fragrant tropical flowers, in an atmosphere of perpetual spring, yet turning the eye to the northwest, you constantly behold the snow-capped peaks of Orizaba and Popocatepetl, from which I can draw my ice at all seasons of the year.

There are about thirty confederates now here, all of whom will locate their lands and commence the work of settlement within a week or ten days.

The place where we begin the first colony was highly improved and in a high state of civilization a hundred years ago. The extensive ruins of what were once magnificent structures show that the haciendas were highly productive, and the homes of wealth, luxury and refinement; but, about fifty years since slavery was abolished in the state of Vera Cruz, and the proprietors of these magnificent estates left the country with the large fortunes they had amassed. The church seized the lands and allowed them to lie idle and go to ruin. The buildings upon each of those places must have cost from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The church held the property till about five years since, when it was taken by the government, and the government now sells it to us for colonization at \$1 per acre, in quantities of six hundred and forty acres to each head of a family and three hundred and twenty acres to each single man, on a credit of one, two, three, four, and five years. *This is the beginning of the first confederate colony in Mexico.* Among those who propose to settle immediately are General Price and General Shelby, from Missouri, Judge Perkins, of Louisiana, and myself. The resources of this country are such as to insure fortune to the energy and industry that have usually characterized our people. The wonder is that they have been permitted to remain undeveloped so long; but this is the most indolent, lazy, and worthless population on earth.

Will many of the people of the southern States feel inclined to seek new homes; or will they follow the example of Lee, Johnston, and others? Mexico presents the finest field that I have ever seen for the enterprise of our people; and now that slavery is abolished in the south, hired labor can be much more easily procured here and made much more profitable than in any part of the United States. I do not propose, however, to urge or even advise

any one to come; I only propose to give them facts, and leave them to decide for themselves, as I have done for myself. Such as feel inclined to come will be received with open arms and cordial welcome. But enough of this.

Where is Forrest, and what is he doing? and where and how is everybody else? for I have heard from none of our friends since I left Mississippi.

Give my kind regards to Mrs. Adair, Robin, Jack and Forrest, and kiss Mary for me, and tell her that it would give me great pleasure to have a romp with her this evening.

Write me fully, and do your best at penmanship, so that I may be able to read at least the greater part of the letter. I sent you a copy of the Mexican News, an English newspaper edited by Governor Allen, about a month ago. I hope you received it, though there was very little of interest in it except that it shows the fact that *we had started an American newspaper at the city of Mexico*. I neglected to say to you that this place is situated on the line of railroad from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, seventy miles west of Vera Cruz. The railroad is now in operation to within eighteen miles of this place, and all the balance to the city of Mexico is under contract and the work rapidly progressing. It is a few hours' run by rail from here to Vera Cruz, from Vera Cruz it is three days by steam to New Orleans, and from New Orleans it is three or four days by rail to Atlanta. So you see that we are still neighbors, even if you should remain in Georgia. *The road is owned by an English company, but it is almost entirely in American hands.*

My health is excellent, and I feel that it cannot be otherwise in this charming climate. Direct your letters to me at Cordova, Mexico. And in conclusion let me beg you to excuse this horrid and disjointed letter, as it was written in the midst of a crowd, half of whom were continually talking to me and compelling me to talk to them.

Very truly your friend,

ISHAM G. HARRIS.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, December 21, 1865,

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your three notes dated, respectively, October 20, November 4, and December 12, 1865, which, with their several accompaniments, you have been pleased to communicate to me for the information of the government of the United States, touching the plan of colonization about to be inaugurated in the republic of Mexico, and in confirmation of your previous communications on the same subject to this department.

These very interesting documents, for the knowledge of which I am indebted to you, and for which I beg you to accept my thanks, have been duly considered by this government, and shall, hereafter, receive the attention to which they are so justly entitled.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, December 31, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY AD INTERIM: In addition to and in confirmation of the information I have already communicated to your department in various notes, relative to the efforts of the French government, and its agents in Mexico, to induce the malcontents of the United States who took part in the late rebellion against their government, and do not mean to submit now that it is over, to settle in Mexico and give afterwards new trouble to their country, I have the honor to transmit two documents, published by Mr. M. F. Maury, ex-confederate

agent in Europe, and now termed "Imperial Commissioner of Colonization," in one of which he gives a special invitation to confederates who wish to settle in Mexico, and informs them that three hundred and fifty thousand acres of land are set apart for them in the States of Vera Cruz and Puebla.

I embrace the occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM HUNTER, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

COLONIZATION OFFICE, NO. 13 CALLE SAN JUAN LETRAN, CITY OF MEXICO,
December 10, 1865.

SALE OF A FARM BY SUBSCRIPTION.

An offer of 350,000 acres of land is made to confederate settlers who wish to establish themselves in Mexico.

These lands, the most fertile of the empire, are intersected by three rivers. They are selected on the line of the railroad from Vera Cruz to the capital, and near the road from Vera Cruz to Jalapa. They are in the healthy part of the tierras calientes. They produce equally well coffee, cocoa, indigo, cotton, and sugar-cane, with all the tropical fruits and vegetables.

The proprietor will sell them to the settlers as soon as the latter have filed with the agents of colonization in the United States or Mexico, subscriptions for 200,000 acres at the following rates:

The first 50,000 acres chosen, at	\$1 75
The second 50,000 acres chosen, at	1 50
The third 50,000 acres chosen, at	1 25
The fourth 50,000 acres chosen, at	1 00

The first subscribers shall have the right to choose at the above rates, with the understanding that not less than 320 acres shall be sold to any one of them.

When the 200,000 acres shall have been subscribed for and chosen, the rest shall be sold at a price to be agreed upon between the seller and purchaser.

Payment shall be made in the following manner:

One-third of the amount is to be paid in cash at Mexico, Vera Cruz, or New Orleans. The rest thereof shall be paid in four years' time, causing the payment thereof to be effected in equal parts and yearly; that is to say, one-sixth per annum, adding thereto the interest at the rate of six per cent.

As villages and towns are established on the lands, a lot will be given gratis to each settler in said villages or towns. Said villages or towns shall be chosen and allotted by Mr. Maury, the imperial commissioner of colonization.

The surveying and the cost of the title of the property will be at the expense of the settlers.

The hacienda offered herewith is known to be one of the finest and most celebrated in Mexico. It presents, especially to the former planters of the south, a fine opportunity for establishing a flourishing American settlement. Those who are disposed to visit the country for the purpose of colonizing it under the imperial decree to promote immigration will receive every encouragement from this office.

The offer is made by respectable parties, and persons wishing to treat will be put in communication by addressing the commissioner.

Apprentices, as per imperial decree of September 5, 1865, would do well here, though there is no lack of native labor.

M. F. MAURY, *Imperial Commissioner.*

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translated from "La Sociedad," Mexico, December 7, 1865.]

M. F. Maury, *Imperial Commissioner of Colonization to persons wishing to settle in Mexico:*

The doors of the empire are wide open, and his Majesty the Emperor has, in a most liberal decree, invited immigration from all quarters, and without distinction as to nationality.

Many people, both in the Old World and the New, having heard of this invitation, wish to change their skies and to avail themselves of its privileges. Gentlemen representing several thousand families in Europe, and hundreds in Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, the Carolinas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, in the United States, are now anxiously seeking information in regard to the country, its condition and resources, with the view of making it their home.

Considering that almost the only source of information open to them upon this subject is to be found in anonymous contributions, made for the most part to a press by no means friendly to Mexico, I deem it proper to state for the information of all those, whatever be their nationality, who desire to renounce it and come to Mexico, with the intention, in good faith, of making it their home, and of planting their posterity here, that they would do well to come; for it is a land more blessed by nature in its soil and climate than any part of the United States, that great centre at present of human migration.

THE WEALTH OF THE SOIL.

The earth here yields to the care of husbandry with a profusion that would seem incredible there and fabulous in Europe. In some places it crowns the labor of the husbandman regularly with two and in others with three harvests annually; and in each one he gathers one hundred, two hundred, sometimes three hundred, and occasionally four hundred fold, and even more, according to his own skill and the kind of seed used.

Cotton and corn do well in almost all parts of the empire. But the cotton, especially of Tamaulipas, Matabuala, Fresnillo, Durango, Mazatlan, and the states north, is said to be of a better staple, save Sea-island, than any produced in the United States; indeed, the cotton of Yucatan is called Sea-island.

Under these fine climates, which give a purity and transparency to the atmosphere that makes existence itself an enjoyment, and invest the eye with the faculties of almost a new sense, the vegetable kingdom displays its wealth and its powers most gorgeously, and with the most marvellous vigor and concentration.

In chosen spots and upon a single hacienda may be seen crowded together, piled up in steppes one above another, in perfection, fruits, flowers, and products, which in less favored climes require as many latitudes, climates, and soils as can be found in the entire breadth of plain that lies between the sources of the Mississippi and the mouths of the Amazon.

Here, besides cotton and corn, the olive and the vine, we have the finest of wheat, with pulse and all the cereals in great perfection; also tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, the cocoa plant, rice, indigo, cochineal, peniento, India-rubber, and henuquin, a peculiar and valuable fibre that answers many of the purposes of both flax and hemp, and, last of all, and what, moreover, no other country in the world can produce—Flora's feat and Bacchus's boast—the lordly magney, or pulque plant of Anahuac.

I have seen some of the very best planters from Missouri, Tennessee, and the south, and I have conversed with the learned men from France and other parts of Europe, all of whom happen to have travelled through the northern and most healthy parts of Mexico. The Europeans report, on the one hand, an agricultural country superior to the best parts of France and Italy, and also of surpassing mineral wealth; while the Americans, on the other hand, pronounce it a grazing and cattle country to which even the blue-grass regions of Kentucky and Tennessee are not to be compared.

The mountains abound with minerals, the woods with game, and the forests with the finest of timber—with the most exquisite dye and ornamental woods, gums and spices, drugs, and medicinal plants of rare virtues.

SETTLEMENTS CONTEMPLATED.

Generals Price and Shelby, of Missouri; Governor Harris, of Tennessee, and Judge Perkins, of Louisiana, with a number of their friends, have gone to examine the country about Cordova. They are delighted with it; they intend to make it their home. The railway hence to Vera Cruz passes through it. The land is superb. It is sold by the government to immigrants at one dollar the acre, to be paid for in five equal annual instalments.

Generals Hardeman and Terry, with others from Texas, are equally well pleased with Jalisco. They are negotiating for the purchase of haciendas there sufficiently large to accommodate with land a settlement to be made up of themselves, their old neighbors and friends.

The Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Missouri, has already commenced a fine settlement on the Rio Verdi, in San Luis Potosi. He and his comrades have gone into the cultivation of cotton, corn and tobacco.

The representative of large capital, M. Dousdebès, has a grant for establishing a colony from France and Spain on the shores of Matamoras.

Mr. Lloyd, of England, equally well supported, has engaged to establish a number of colonists between Vera Cruz and the capital, and a ship-load of European immigrants have just arrived in Yucatan to form the nucleus of a settlement in that fine peninsula. They have been received with ovations by the good people there.

A disposition equally favorable towards immigration is manifested in various other parts of the country.

Patriotic citizens have stepped forth at the call of his Majesty, and offered their own private lands, many of them upon the most favorable terms for colonization.

Mr. Jimires invites five hundred European families to his estates in Durango, offering them each a house and lot, rent free, a weekly allowance of provisions without charge, and a guarantee of work at fair wages for five years. At the end of that time he further promises a gratuity of \$15,000 to the community, and a present to each family of a yoke of oxen.

Mr. Gil, of Guadalajara, invites twenty Belgian families to his highly improved and well-stocked hacienda, offering them one-half of it for cultivation on shares, he finding the stock, seed and cattle, and the colonists the labor. He offers also flocks and herds, from which to breed on halves.

Other enlightened and liberal-minded land-owners of the empire have offered their estates for colonization on terms equally liberal.

MISREPRESENTATIONS ABROAD CONCERNING MEXICO.

Many false impressions have taken root abroad about Mexico and the Mexicans. These operate greatly to our disadvantage, inasmuch as they are stumbling-blocks in the mind of the stranger, and tend to discourage immigration.

The world knows Mexico as a country that for the last half a century has been tossed by revolution. Many, listening to the stories of her troubles and the tales of her calamities as told by her enemies, have come to regard the whole land as a "God-forsaken country," inhabited by a bigoted, illiberal and inhospitable people, while, in fact, no part of the world can boast of a more refined society or a more elegant hospitality than that which is to be found in certain parts of the empire.

The Mississippi valley, even in its palmiest days, could not boast any plantation that could compare in baronial splendor, lordly magnificence and princely hospitality with your Mexican hacienda that has escaped the ravages of war. The halls of some of them are large enough to entertain, and have entertained, several hundred guests for weeks at a time.

On some of these you will find well-appointed schools for the education of the children of the dependents at the expense of the proprietor; churches built and chapels maintained by the same munificent bounty; hospitals erected for the sick, the old servants pensioned, and all the operations of the estate carried on upon a scale and with expenditures followed by remunerative revenues such as but few farmers in Virginia or France can boast of.

But all parts of the country are not so.

For more than fifty years Mexico has been constantly torn by faction or scourged by war, and she has reaped abundantly of the harvests which always spring from such seeds—forced loans and contributions upon the rich, grievous burdens upon the poor, the spirit of enterprise in many departments of the empire well nigh crushed out of the people, the industrial energies of entire regions paralyzed, and capital itself frightened off into its hiding-places.

ABSENTEEISM.

Such a state of things long continued in any country is sure to be followed by a general absenteeism from their estates of the large land-owners. This is eminently the case in Mexico.

The effect of this absenteeism is expressed upon the landscape, and proclaimed by deserted mansions, neglected plantations, and other signs of ruin and decay, in tones that fall sadly upon many a heart. Many of these fine estates, with the walls of their noble old mansions still standing, are now offered for sale and settlement at prices varying from a few cents to a few dollars per acre. They are in the most choice parts of the country, and would, if restored to cultivation, embellish the land with a beautiful mosaic of the most lovely garden spots that the world ever saw.

With the immigrant coming to Mexico it is not as with the emigrant bound to the "far west" in the United States. There he goes to reclaim from the wilderness. Here he comes, for the most part, to reclaim from ruin and the ravages of war. Plantations that were once garden spots invite his coming. He may pitch his tent on the verge of highly cultivated districts from which he can draw his supplies until the bountiful earth, yielding to his own good husbandry, shall yield him of her increase. And this the soil of Mexico, under climates that have no winter, will do in two or three months.

One of the finest haciendas of the wasted districts is now on sale. It was abandoned some six or eight years ago in consequence of a revolution; the proprietor died, and it has not since been restored to cultivation. It yielded a regular annual profit of not less than \$120,000. The dwelling-house alone cost \$200,000. This hacienda is large enough to accommodate forty or fifty families with farms of one thousand acres each. It can now be had for less than five dollars the acre, and after the first payment, on long time to suit purchasers.

Other haciendas that are open to the choice and selection of the immigrant are much larger. Two, containing each more than three thousand square miles, have been offered by the proprietors for colonization.

I know of no country in which the land is held by so few and in such large tracts.

This also has produced marked effects upon the nation; it appears to have deprived Mexico entirely of what other countries consider their "bone and sinew"—their noble, enterprising, energetic, hard-working middle classes.

Some political economists divide society in Mexico into but two classes—the upper and lower; and out of a population of eight millions of people, more than seven millions are said to belong to the latter.

INDUCEMENTS OFFERED TO FOREIGN CAPITAL AND LABOR.

The statesmen of the country, with the Emperor in their lead, desire to heal the breach rapidly. For this purpose, foreign labor, capital and skill have been invited to our shores. Many good men of the country look upon immigration, on a large scale, as the readiest and best means of restoring the equilibrium of the classes, and of giving to this country and its institutions that stability and force which are so essential to the full development of its vast powers, capabilities and resources.

Hence the encouragement that is now offered to immigrants.

This country is now in a better state to receive immigrants than it has been for many years.

The empire is daily gaining ground, strength and support, and the armed organization against it is broken up into factions—its head and leader, ex-President Juarez, having left the country.

But now, with the dawn of a happy era of peace at last before her, Mexico, after half a century of continued change and revolution, finds herself in an exhausted state, and the immigrants who wish to cast their lot with her auspicious future must bring with them something more than brawny arms and stout hearts. They must not forget those appliances of industry, those labor-saving machines and improved modes of husbandry which scientific skill and mechanical ingenuity, under the blessings of stable government and long-continued peace, have, in other parts of the world, brought to such perfection.

ROOM FOR ALL.

There is room, with encouraging prospects, for mechanics and artisans of all sorts, as well as for agricultural labor and scientific skill. Roads are to be repaired and made, bridges restored, mills—grist and saw—to be erected, dwelling-houses to be repaired or built; machine shops, and all those establishments which are so essential in the agricultural economy of other countries, will also be extensively required.

Immigrants who come to Mexico, from whatever country, will be warmly welcomed in many parts. They will meet with no open hostility anywhere, except from the hands of the lawless.

To resist them, and to have the full benefit of all those conveniences—such as mills and other establishments just alluded to, and which every well-ordered agricultural community requires—it is desirable that the immigrants should come in bodies and form settlements of their own.

Looking to this, the decree of September 5 invests them with a semi-military organization, and they are expected to be able to defend their settlements against robbers, who, however, rarely attack where resistance is expected.

Protestants will be drawn into communities also for the sake of schools and churches. Moreover, public interests require that each settlement should be large enough fairly to develop the whole system of domestic, social, and agricultural economy of the country whence the settlers came.

For this purpose each settlement should be large enough to support saw and grist mills, tanyards, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and the various other artisans and machinists who, in the pursuit of their calling, contribute to the requirements of modern agriculture, with all of its improvements.

ADVICE TO FOREIGNERS SETTLING IN MEXICO.

There is still another reason why immigrants from all except Spanish countries should form themselves into settlements of their own, and that reason is one of language. A farmer coming to Mexico, ignorant of the language, ignorant of the customs of the country, and of the rate of wages, and settling down among neighbors all speaking in (to him) an unknown tongue, would find himself surrounded by embarrassments, none of which would exist in a settlement made up of his old neighbors, kinsmen and friends.

It would be well, therefore, for each colony to bring with it a large portion of its own labor.

The lands of Mexico have never been surveyed, nor has there been, until now, a land office.

The consequence is, that the government cannot tell which lands are public and which private; and though the chief of the land office is vigorously at work organizing surveying parties, and sending them forth into the field, it is found that lands sufficient to receive the coming tide of immigration cannot be surveyed, mapped, and brought into market for some time yet. Therefore, it is recommended to those, both in Europe and the United States, who desire to come now to Mexico, to form themselves into companies, consisting of not less than twenty-five families each. Then, while those at home are making their preparations, let their pioneers come to Mexico for the purpose of purchasing a hacienda or other lands, and of making ready to receive the rest.

To those who will thus come now, with their families, and form settlements sufficient to

call into play all the industrial appliances, consisting of machinery, shops and implements connected with agriculture in its most improved state, and calculated to serve as so many centres of agricultural improvement in the country, special encouragement is held out.

They are invited to send forward their agents, who will receive all the information that the office of colonization can give, and every facility that it can throw in their way, as to the most desirable parts of the country in which to settle—the choicest localities and the cheapest and best lands, &c.

Having made their own selections, the government will then, in case they require it, lend them pecuniary assistance sufficient to enable them to establish themselves in their new homes, and get fairly under way.

M. F. MAURY, *Imperial Commissioner.*

OFFICE OF COLONIZATION,

No. 13, Calle San Juan Letran, Mexico, November 18, 1865,

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, December 31, 1865

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this date, enclosing two documents, dated December 10 and November 18, 1865, issued by M. F. Maury, on the subject of the colonization of Mexico.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

W. HUNTER.

Acting Secretary of State.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,

Washington, D. C.